

Table of international exchange rates for various countries including Albania, Argentina, Australia, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Sport

Richard Williams says goodbye to the crying Games
Frank Keating's brush with the Georgia police
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Media
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G2 pages 7/9

British divers sell their soles

It's a rainy night in Georgia for fun seekers

John Duncan in Atlanta

THE sad, penniless state of British sport, which has endured its worst Olympic Games for 20 years, was exposed again last night when two divers said they had been forced to sell their official issue Olympic kit to raise money for a night out.

Robert Morgan, who has won 30 British national diving titles and is competing in his fourth Olympics, and his team-mate Tony All packed their official bag full of their official kit headed for Peachtree Street and grudgingly touted their gear for sale to the highest bidders, mostly Americans.

"We are desperate for money," said Morgan, outside Macy's department store. "We haven't got any sponsorship so what are we supposed to do? We are selling this stuff in order to have a night out because we simply don't have any cash."

The pair were selling their official T-shirts for \$30 (£19) and the official mascot sweat-shirt for \$150. "The sweat-shirts are rarer," Morgan said.

Morgan, who lives in Sheffield and trains full-time, receives an "elite performer" grant of £15,000 from the Sports Council annually. In a long career, he finished fifth in Barcelona and was 13th in Atlanta.

His colleague All, also a full-time diver, receives the dole. Neither has the personal sponsorships and endorsements that put some British athletes in the millionaire class.

Martin Brewer, a senior British executive with Adidas, which provided the kit, said: "It's terrible that athletes like these should have to sacrifice so much to represent their country and then they can't even afford



South African gold... while British competitors took their sales pitches to the streets of Atlanta, Josia Thugwane found gold there in the men's marathon, so becoming the first black to win the top medal for South Africa

to let off steam at the end of the Games. But if we have replacement kit in our basement then they can have it and if they want a few bob for a night out then

I'll find a couple of hundred bucks for them from somewhere." The shooting of two National Guardsmen helping with security yesterday cast

a cloud over the Olympic closing ceremonies, writes Mark Trax. One of the men, who were off duty and in civilian clothes, was killed and the other wounded as

they left a restaurant in the Atlanta suburb of Doraville at 3.30am. Police ruled out robbery as a motive.

Leader comment, page 8

Millions on offer in rush to seal deal before election

Treasury sweetens DSS sale

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THE Treasury is preparing to offer sweeteners worth hundreds of millions of pounds to encourage property developers to conclude a £4 billion deal to buy the nation's social security offices before the general election.

Confidential letters, passed to the Guardian, reveal that the Treasury has raised the question of handing over some of the Department of Social Security's estate as a "gift" to firms in return for companies spending millions of pounds on improvements.

One plan to hand over the whole estate for just £1 - raised at a confidential meeting with NatWest Markets, the financing arm of the bank - has been ruled out as "politically unacceptable".

But the documents obtained by Derek Foster, Labour's shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, show that the Treasury is keen to consider other options involving low up-front payments to the offices, with the ministry participating in later property sell-offs.



David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

The Treasury has demanded a review of benefit office space and locations, with a view to rationalising provision. The disclosure follows the passing of the DSS deadline for bids for the offices on Friday. The ministry is not disclosing how many of the 24

consortiums have bid although John Beckwith, of Beckwith Property Fund Management - whose role as chairman of the Premier Club, where members pay £100,000 to dine twice a year with John Major, was reported in the Guardian last week - has decided this month not to go ahead.

Auditors are looking at whether any deals involve the cheap sale of public assets.

Ministers are concerned that the sale of the benefits office could slip beyond the next general election because of the complexity of sorting out all the title deeds and valuing the property. The present schedule already means that the exchange of contracts cannot be completed until September 1997, although the timescale allows ministers to complete a deal before the election, committing the next government to handing over the property.

Labour is not committing itself to the deal. Mr Foster said: "We cannot commit ourselves in advance of an election. We are anyway opposed to any sale of property that would involve offering private companies valuable assets at knock-down prices."

The Treasury letter to the DSS makes it clear that in the benefits office sale "cash receipts need not take place in all circumstances. The disposal of an asset may not come in the form of up-front receipts. The receipts may flow later or, more generally, the benefit will come in the form of lower future service charges or rentals."

It goes on: "In some circumstances it may be justifiable to dispose of assets at less than the market value... but Treasury approval will be required in these cases. The shortfall in value will need to be accounted for as a gift and Parliament informed."

All the meetings with pro-cessing how many of the 24

A number of schemes, from privately financed roads to the Channel high speed rail link and private prisons, are under investigation by the National Audit Office.

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EU decision to pull out of Mostar dashes hope for peace in Bosnia

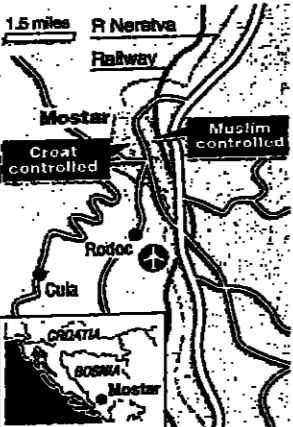
Two-year mission ends in failure as Croats reject power-sharing

Julian Borger in Mostar

EUROPEAN Union officials were preparing yesterday to pull out of Mostar and abort an unsuccessful two-year attempt to heal the town's bitter ethnic divide, after Croat nationalists rejected a power-sharing compromise, dealing a wounding blow to hopes of a lasting peace in Bosnia.

Hectic diplomatic efforts were under way yesterday evening to salvage the fragile truce between Mostar's Croat and Muslim communities. Sir Martin Garrod, head of the EU mission in the town, insisted "our doors are always open" to a last-minute deal, before EU member states make a final decision on its future role this morning.

But when the EU deadline passed at midnight on Saturday without agreement on Mostar's future, the EU city administration's mandate formally ended, and its winding-



down operation began. Sir Martin ceased to wield executive powers, and said only a handful of officials would remain behind to "pay the bills and switch off the lights".

The refusal of the Mostar Croat nationalists to accept the results of the June local elections - in which a Muslim-led coalition won a majority - and their boycott of the new city council, represent a defiant rebuff to European and US pressure.

The weekend fiasco casts doubt on the extent of Mr Tudjman's control over Bos-

nian Croat extremists in his Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) party.

Mostar Croat leaders appeared yesterday evening, apparently armed with fresh proposals, at the Hotel Ero, a glamorous marble-floored building which has served as the EU headquarters for the past two years. Mr Gasic refused to say whether the new proposals were acceptable, but suggested there might be room for negotiation.

The Irish EU presidency is expected to formally approve the winding down operation this morning. Police powers will pass from a 90-strong Western European Union (WEU) force to the joint Croat-Muslim force the Europeans have painstakingly tried to foster. But a WEU official predicted that, without supervision, the joint force "would go on for a day or two and then there would be some incident and it would collapse".

Nervous Mostar residents spent much of the weekend monitoring media reports on the negotiations. Some in the Muslim side of the city said they would flee if the EU withdrew.

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ment yesterday about his patient. However, a Sunday newspaper reported that her reasons were that she already had a child and was in straitened circumstances.

Prof Bennett told the paper: "Killing one healthy twin sounds unethical. But my colleagues and I concluded this week that it would be better to terminate one pregnancy as soon as possible and leave one alive than to lose two babies."

Dr Mathanson said the abortion could be justified legally on medical grounds because multiple births did carry more risks, or on social grounds if the woman could not cope with twins.

She said the arbitrariness of deciding which twin to kill may make people uneasy. But she added: "I don't think there's any difference between performing an abortion to leave no foetus and reducing a twin to a singleton. It's exactly the same as any other abortion at 16 weeks."

Anti-abortion groups said the case brought the issue into sharp focus. Jack Scarisbrick of Life said: "Selective terminations are entirely lawful. What is interesting is that people are still shocked. People don't realise the extent to which gynaecology has got so callous."

Prof Phillip Bennett, of Queen Charlotte's hospital in London, was making no com-

Alex Bellis

THE first abortion of one of a healthy pair of twins because the mother said she could not cope with both raises a new ethical issue, a leading member of the British Medical Association said last night.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, BMA head of science and ethics, said that while the case was "on the edge" of normal practice it was "no different from any other abortion".

Her comments followed the revelation yesterday that an obstetrician is about to abort a twin because the 26-year-old mother, a single parent, does not have the finances to look after two babies.

Doctors have been allowed to perform such an operation - a "selective termination" - since 1990 and it has been used several times when in vitro fertilisation has resulted in foetal abnormalities. About 100 are completed a year.

It is believed that the current case is the first time a selective termination will be performed on a non-IVF embryo where both foetuses are perfectly healthy.

Prof Phillip Bennett, of Queen Charlotte's hospital in London, was making no com-

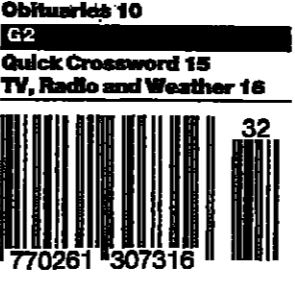
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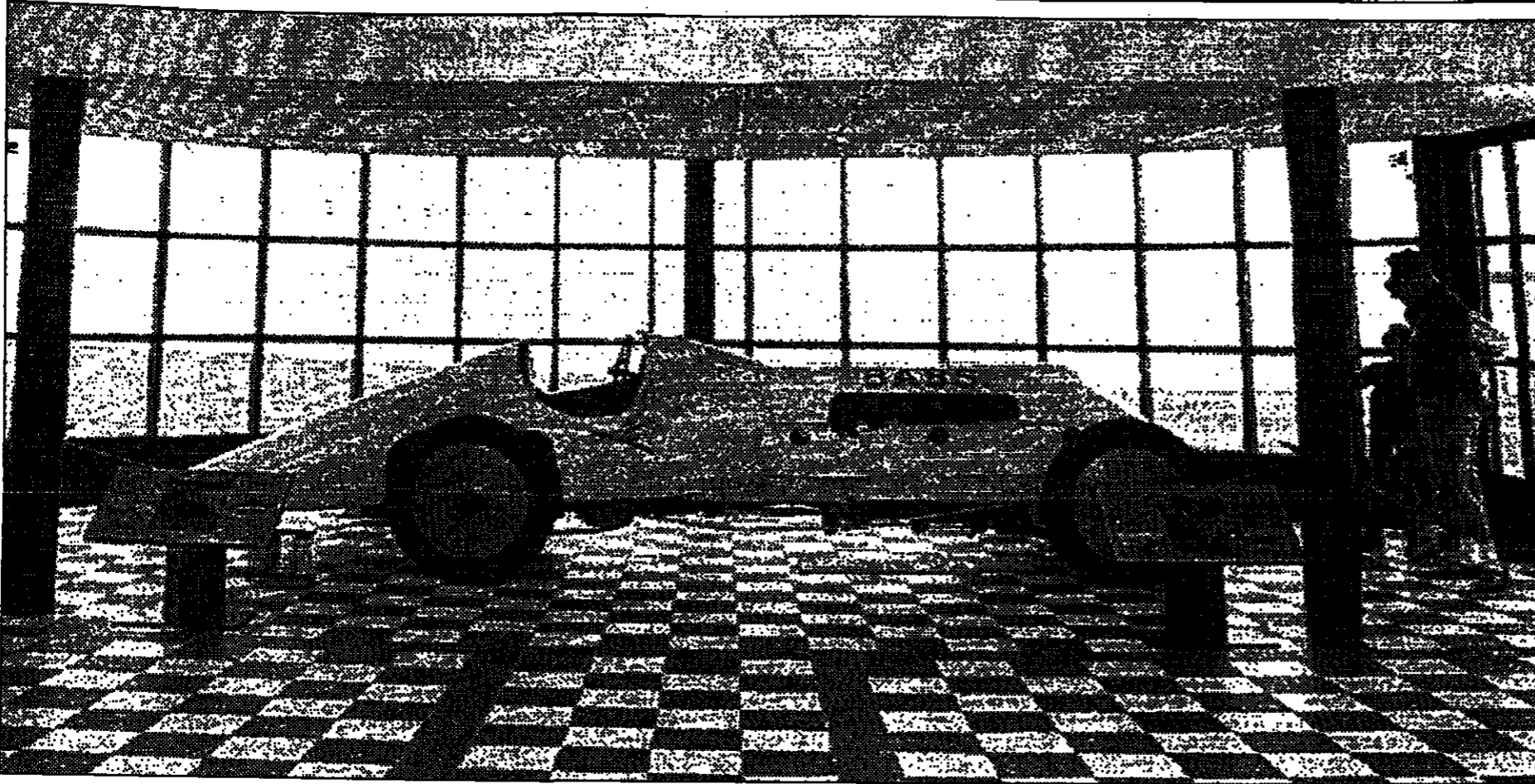
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swatch
OLYMPIC LEGENDS BY SWATCH.



Babs, restored to her former glory after years of painstaking work, is now on display in the Museum of Speed at Pendine Sands

CBI masks fall in pay to curb call for basic wage

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

RESEARCH showing Britain's lowest-paid workers sliding deeper into poverty is being kept under wraps by the Confederation of British Industry for fear it will fuel demands for a minimum wage.

With the employer's organisation anxious about Labour's plans for a floor under wages, senior CBI figures have blocked the publication of internal data showing that some of Britain's most vulnerable workers have suffered pay cuts over the past two years.

Worsening conditions in cleaning hotels and catering pushed up the number of people earning less than £2.40 an hour by more than 20 per cent between 1994 and 1995, the CBI research shows. In many areas, pay packets dropped significantly.

Some CBI staff argued privately that the data should be made public, to demonstrate the higher cost and consequent additional job losses which could be associated with minimum wages — and reinforce the CBI's long-held opposition to state intervention in the labour market.

But senior staff are concerned that publishing the research could backfire, by provoking more concern about the problem of low pay. The research has been seen by Adair Turner, the CBI director general.

One CBI source said: "At first it was thought we could make a big song and dance about how many people would be laid off. But then we thought the opposite effect might be achieved. Basically, the politics were too scary."

Lobby groups attacked the CBI for withholding research which could shape policies to help the low paid. Bhatti Patel, deputy director of the Low Pay Unit, said: "Suppressing information is not exactly helpful to a serious and well informed debate. Unless we admit the scale of the problem we can hardly start addressing it. Whatever figures the CBI has should be made available. Certainly we have never hidden any of our data, whether or not it supported our case."

John Cridland, the CBI's head of employment policy, admitted the research had been carried out, but said it was being kept quiet until the causes of the deterioration had been identified.

"Our numbers are based on official New Earnings Survey figures — but with our own information added in. We have been in contact with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to discover the background," he said.

The research was not the agenda of any of the CBI's policy committees. "We are simply not in the business of knee-jerk reactions," he said. "The view in-house was that we should check the numbers out first."

But Mr Cridland insisted the research would not alter the organisation's official line against a national minimum wage, which is endorsed by most members.

These figures would not cause us to re-write our argument," he said. "That is now decided."

He said the numbers could be used on either side of the argument, with the research indicating that the cost of a minimum wage of about £4 an hour could now be about £5.5 billion each year — £1 billion up on last year's estimate.

"Depending on your starting point, you can play this either way — in favour or against a minimum wage."

The ONS has asked the CBI to investigate specific areas of concern, including catering and agriculture, which were previously covered by wages councils, and youth wages.

The ONS has denied CBI suggestions that the increase in the number of low-paid workers could be the result of changes in the firms sampled. "The pattern described by the CBI looks like a real change in the labour market to us," an ONS official said. "But we are still looking at it."

The CBI is concerned that while people in continuous employment are seeing their pay rising at least in line with inflation, starting rates in certain areas are collapsing. This could be fuelling job insecurity, CBI officials believe, because workers know that if they are made redundant the chances of finding a job with equivalent pay levels are remote.

They buried fast Babs, but now she's back

Car that 70 years ago set a world record then killed her owner has gained a place in the hall of fame. John Ezard reports

FANS of fast cars call it "the greatest comeback since Lazarus". Babs, the racer which broke the world land speed record 70 years ago, is on show again.

She has been dug out of the funeral pit where she was buried on a Welsh beach after virtually decapitating her owner.

After 16 years work, she has now been restored to her old mean, extravagant glory, and given pride of place in the Museum of Speed overlooking the beach at Pendine Sands, Carmarthenshire.

This was where John Godfrey Parry Thomas, one of Britain's most popular and successful car racers, set a new record of 171.02mph in her in April, 1926.

Parry Thomas — pushing the one-tonne vehicle to her limits and using aviation fuel — died in her a year later when she crashed in a new record attempt. Colleagues were so horrified that they buried the car in

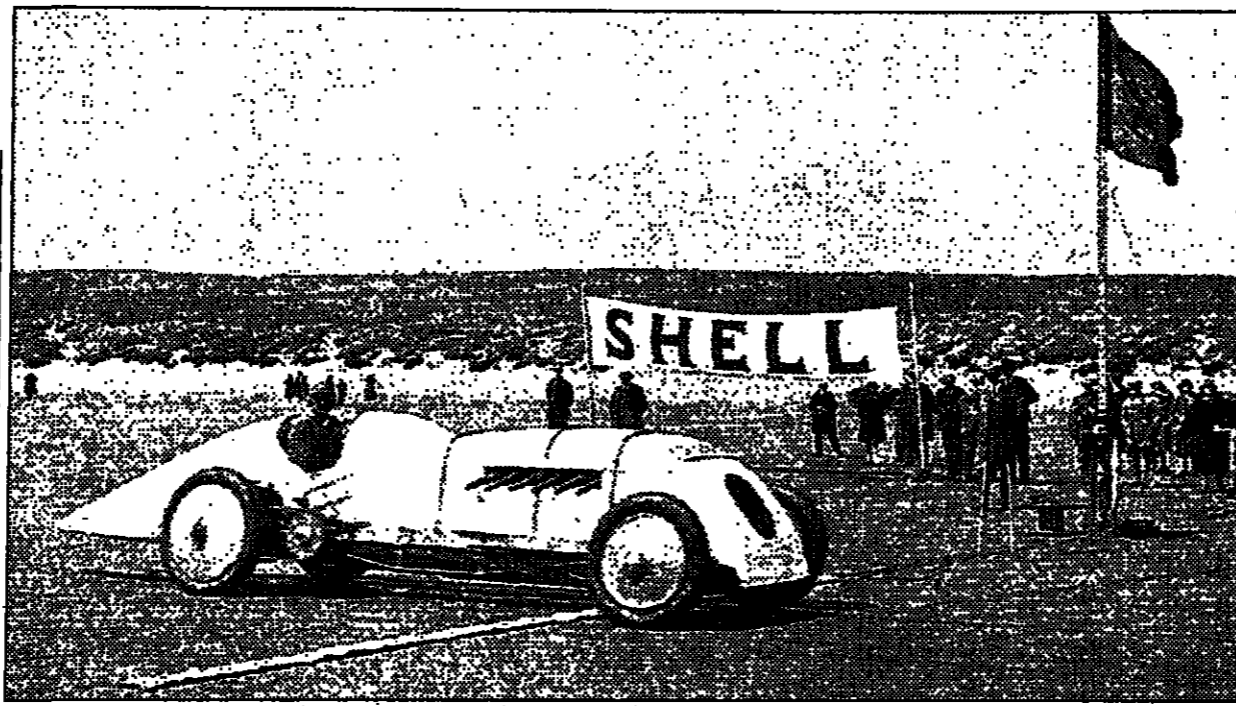
the sands of the six-mile beach. Pendine Sands was regarded as one Britain's best race spots in the 1920s because of its flat, hard surface.

Parry Thomas, son of a vicar, had been chief engineer at Leyland Motors. He designed the Leyland Eight, a failed but still cherished rival to the Rolls Royce. Only 16 models were produced.

His speed record rivals were the better-financed Sir Henry Segrave and Malcolm Campbell.

Babs was a Higham Special which he bought for only £150, adding new carburetors, a long, distinctive tail and 12 exhausts.

The car, named after a friend's daughter, misfired and veered alarmingly when setting the record. In February 1927, Campbell raised it to 174mph.



Parry Thomas and Babs cross the finish line after breaking the land speed record at Pendine Sands in April 1926

On his mandatory second run, Babs went out of control and turned over on him. He was buried near Brooklands race track,

Hampshire, where he had a cottage. Owen Wyn Owen, engineer and car enthusiast, dug up the vehicle, restored it and returned it to its

scene of triumph and disaster. It has a V12 Liberty aeroplane engine and aluminium body. Chris Delaney, Carmarthenshire museums officer,

said yesterday: "It is amazing how many people are fascinated by Babs and the land speed record. Apparently, she can still do 100mph or so".

US firms make a bomb as terror pays dividends

Ian Katz and Mark Tran report on the latest growth industry and an unwitting beneficiary of recent disasters in the US

ANTHONY Barringer got rich last week. He didn't win the lottery or strike oil. He was the unwitting beneficiary of terror.

During the 1980s, the British-born inventor developed a machine that "sniffs" out explosives. He retired from his company, Barringer Technologies, in 1992 but hung on to a slice of its stock.

Last week, amid the panic generated by the assumed explosion on TWA flight 800 and the Atlanta bombing on July 27, stocks soared in companies producing security equipment.

The value of Dr Barringer's 55,000 shares shot briefly to more than \$750,000 (£500,000) last Monday, before the company's stock price settled at around \$8, more than 400 per cent up on its recent level.

The stocks of Invision, another such company based in California, rose to more than \$30 from around \$11 before the TWA disaster, then dropping to about \$20. Invision makes the CTX 5000 bomb-detection device, which uses technology similar to medical

CAT scans to spot suspicious densities inside luggage. Dr Barringer is wary of appearing to profit from the misfortunes of others. "The run on bomb detection stocks is a fortuitous result of the latest events," he said, apologetically.

But he believes incidents such as the Atlanta bombing will wake up Americans to the threat of terrorism. "The thing about Europe is that there is percentage wise much more terrorism. Here it wasn't such a big problem, but the whole ball game's changed following Oklahoma City and these latest events," he said.

John Wood, president of Thermedics, a Massachusetts company that makes bomb detection equipment, agreed. "In this country, we're still using stuff designed to find knives and pistols," he said.

Dr Barringer never intended to become involved in the counter-terrorism business. As a young man he planned to follow his father into mineral exploration in Canada, studying for a PhD in

geology at London's Imperial College. In 1964 he moved to Canada to work for a mineral prospecting firm but he quickly tired of hunting for ore deposits on foot.

By the mid-1960s Dr Barringer was developing a device that would help find mineral deposits by detecting mercury vapour. The Pentagon gave him a grant to adapt it to monitor underground nuclear tests.

In the 1970s he was commissioned by the South African mining magnate Henry Oppenheimer to convert his sniffing equipment into an aerial prospecting system. But although it worked fine in South Africa, he could not get it to work in Canada where Mr Oppenheimer wanted to use it.

So Dr Barringer was delighted when, in the early 1980s, the Canadian government offered him \$1 million to adapt his machines to sniff out explosives and drugs.

Barringer machines are now used in all five big British airports and by law enforcement agencies in Europe and the United States.

Even if he wanted to realise his unexpected profit, Dr Barringer will have to wait a while. He has spent days searching his home, but cannot find his share certificates.

TV gardener Hamilton dies during cycle run

John Ezard

GEOFF Hamilton, cherished as a solid, earth-under-the-fingernails gardener by millions of television viewers, died yesterday while taking part in a sport he loved.

Mr Hamilton, aged 59, presenter of BBC2's Gardeners' World, fell from his bike during a charity cycle run near Merthyr Tydfil. A nurse tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

He had had a heart attack last year. He listed cycling, with music, as one of his chief hobbies and said a main aim in his life was "wherever possible to avoid using a car".

His 17-year spell on Gardeners' World was praised by one critic as "magnificent" for the gimmick-free directness of his presentation.

A robust, outdoor figure, he attracted admirers to his 5½ acres at Barnsdale, Rutland, even though it was not open to the public.

Mr Hamilton went to Writtle agricultural college, Essex, but learned his gardening in the Lea Valley nursery belt of Hertfordshire, where his family moved when he was two.

In 1970, working as a self-employed nurseryman, he met the editor of Garden News. This led to a column and the editor's chair at Practical Gardening.

He lived at Barnsdale with his second wife Lynda. He had three sons by his first marriage. Asked once what he would like for his epitaph, he said: "A little sign that says *Cercidiphyllum japonica*, which is the name of the tree I want planted over me."

Obituary, page 10

Treasury seeks to sweeten DSS office sale

continued from page 1

be interested in paying "little or no up front capital sum" for the office.

Natwest Markets, which is also advising on the sale of Ministry of Defence homes, advised the DSS: "There needs to be an element of short-term opportunism and entrepreneurial skills in the partnership, to identify and capitalise on development opportunities. A lot of active management will be involved."

'I prefer to examine things that are still taboo, rather than straightforward sex which people have been reading about since they were 13. Things like body hair, one of our last taboos.'

Fiona McIntosh

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Health and farm officials summoned to Bonn amid calls for UK sheep culls and doubts on milk safety

Germany fuels BSE crisis

Ian Traynor in Bonn and Paul Brown

THE German government has called an emergency meeting of health and farming officials in Bonn today, amid demands for bigger culls of British livestock because of mad cow disease and criticism of British policy on the beef crisis.

Jochen Borchert, German agriculture minister, called for the risk to humans from BSE to be reassessed, and said Britain's scheme to slaughter infected herds did not go far enough to eradicate the risk.

Other German officials, maintaining their hardline reputation on the beef crisis, urged that British calves, sheep and lambs be included in the culling programme.

Amid reports that German scientists do not exclude the possibility that milk could be vulnerable to BSE infection, Mr Borchert told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper yesterday that Britain would have to "face the consequences" of the new evidence.

But the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday that trials to see if calves could get the disease from the milk of infected cows had proved negative. It had no plans to conduct any more.

Three microbiologists who have criticised the Government's handling of the BSE crisis remained adamant yesterday that the ministry was still being too complacent.

David Lacey, of Leeds university, believes that transmission from cow to cow, perhaps through contamination of land and grass, is possible. Researchers Harsh Narang

and Stephen Dealler said — five years before the Government accepted the argument — that BSE was being transmitted from cow to calf. They believe transmission in milk is possible.

Despite one of the most intensive research efforts of modern times, no infective agent of BSE has been identified in milk or in any tissue except nerve tissue, if milk did become suspect it would turn a crisis into a catastrophe. The dairy industry would suffer the same sales loss as beef, and the Common Agricultural Policy would be thrown into chaos.

Klaudia Martini, environment minister of the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz, called for British dairy products to be subject to the EU's export ban on British beef.

Last month Bonn extended the import ban on British cat-

tle byproducts such as gelatine, tallow, and bull semen, despite the European Commission's decision to relax it. German officials are calling for tougher and more extensive bans to be imposed.

Ms Martini also argued that British sheep and lambs should be tested and their export proscribed until it was certain that there was no risk of infection from them.

Hans Wiesen, agriculture minister of the state of Schleswig-Holstein, said the export ban on British beef should be widened and the calves of infected cows slaughtered.

In the past month, German officials and the media have been incensed by reports alleging that Brussels covered up evidence of the impact of mad cow disease on humans in the early 1990s, and by reports from the German ambassador in Italy that Britain

is heating the beef ban through illegal exports via Scotland, Ireland and France. German border and customs authorities were ordered to step up their monitoring of the meat trade and tighten their controls.

Ms Martini joined several of her colleagues in Germany in denouncing British policy, strategy, and propaganda on the beef crisis.

"We don't know what kind of game the British are playing with us. But one thing is sure: this is how public confidence in the entire European Union will be destroyed."

Barbara Stamm, Bavarian health minister, described British policy on providing information to its EU partners as unbearable. "Co-operation can't be like this. The British Government is forfeiting what remains of its credibility."



Jochen Borchert... wants risk to humans reassessed

Ulster enmity casts shadow over festival

David Sharrock on parade disquiet

SUNSHINE and a carnival parade along the Falls Road kicked off Felle an Fhobail in West Belfast yesterday, claiming to be Ireland's largest community festival.

But even before it began, Unionists criticised the strongly nationalist slant of the festival, which receives funding from government-aided bodies. Belfast city council, BBC Children in Need, Guinness and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

The festival programme's foreword leaves no doubts about its politics, saying that "the Irish peace process" had created an opportunity for a just and lasting peace. "We are therefore saddened and dismayed that the British government squandered and abused this opportunity," writes festival director Kate Pickering.

That was seized upon by Belfast Unionist councillors, who threatened to withdraw funding in future. An Ulster Unionist councillor Jim Rodgers said the festival was in breach of the city's "non-sectarian and non-political" guidelines.

Mr Rodgers also criticised the festival's radio station. "They are complaining bitterly from Protestant estates in West Belfast about the sectarian songs on that channel," he said.

IRA and republican prisoners in the Maze prison are also holding a week of sporting activities and discussions, the programme says.

The Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, who



Festive spirits... The carnival parade on the Falls Road. 'The people of West Belfast want a lasting peace'

launched the festival yesterday, takes second place to the US ambassador to the Irish republic Jean Kennedy Smith in the programme's acknowledgements.

The festival also previews a new play about IRA leader Michael Collins, titled The Classic, which claims that he was murdered by British agents. The critic of the Irish News, which is sponsoring the event, found the "stage-English" characters difficult to swallow with their "hoity-toity accents and silly mannerisms".

"In a bizarre scene set in Cairo British agents who

plotted to kill Collins are turned into child-molesters. Surely there is no need to crack so many eggs into the pudding, especially when feeding the converted."

Kate Pickering rejects the charges of sectarianism. "We respect other communities within our festival. The people of West Belfast want a lasting peace, we are doing everything to achieve that."

The festival's single effort at offering the Unionist perspective comes in the form of a photographic exhibition called Carson's Army — the story of the 36th (Ulster) Division.

John Hunter, secretary of the Ulster Society, said: "It's a drop in the ocean when you look at the rest of the programme."

Protestants in the Shankill Road resent the festival's claim to represent all of West Belfast.

The Progressive Unionist Party leader David Ervine said he would not be attending. "I'm not sure I'd be welcome. It's a tragedy that this society has a West Belfast festival that is a Catholic West Belfast festival. They claim to be inclusive but that's not the way they've set things up. It's been heavily infiltrated by Sinn Fein."

Conferences cancelled as flight from the North speeds up

David Sharrock, Ireland Correspondent

THE flight from Ulster continues this summer as Northern Ireland balances precariously between peace and renewed conflict.

Two international events have been cancelled at the last moment because of the widespread violence sparked by last month's Drumcree Orange parade and the fear that this Saturday's Apprentice Boys' rally in Londonderry will plunge the province into deeper turmoil.

Tourism chiefs are alarmed at the dramatic drop in bookings following last

year's best ever figures, when Northern Ireland was basking in summer heat and solid ceasefire. Even local people are holidaying abroad.

Organisers of the COSAC 96 — Computer Security Audit and Control — conference have moved the venue to the Irish Republic because delegates began cancelling. Many were from mainland Britain and had visited Northern Ireland many times. But other cancellations have come from the United States, Belgium, Germany, Holland and Russia.

The event, which was due to have taken place at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast, next month, has now been

switched to the Slieve Russell across the border in County Cavan for September 10-12.

Organiser David Lynas from the Belfast-based AKA Associates said: "We have been inundated with calls from delegates who are not prepared to visit Northern Ireland. They are just not confident in their own safety and there's nothing I can say that will change their minds."

He added: "The events of last month had a worse impact on the rest of the world than the previous years of on-going violence."

Only a day earlier a construction trade fair due to attract an estimated 25,000 visitors was also cancelled.

Around 200 companies from across the world had planned to attend the International Building Exhibition.

Bill Caughy of WEC Industrial Promotions said: "Nobody could give us any guarantee that the events surrounding the 12th of July would not repeat themselves on August 10 so we decided not to go ahead."

Even an agricultural show at Killeter, near Castlebar in Co Tyrone, tomorrow has been cancelled.

Trade in some shops in Castlebar has dropped 25 per cent following circulation of an anonymous letter among Protestant businessmen warning them of a boycott.

It was soon after we rode out from the wooden corral that I knew I was falling for my giant of a Slovak. I shall not speak his name, nor shall I invent one for him: events are too recent for me to slip into the usual conceits.

News in brief

Stowaway teenager returns to Britain

A 14-year-old girl was on her way back to Britain yesterday after stowing away on a ferry to France. The mother of Clair Syddall said Brittany Ferries would have to "answer some questions" after the teenager managed to board a ferry going from Portsmouth to St Malo.

Essex police put out an appeal after Clair, a diabetic, went missing from home on Saturday, and ports were alerted. She arrived in St Malo early yesterday, and was put on a ferry to Portsmouth, where she was met by her parents last night.

Brittany Ferries promised an investigation and said: "It is a bit of a mystery how she managed to get on board." Clair's mother, Mary Syddall, of Cressing, near Braintree, Essex, said she had received a call from Brittany Ferries in St Malo to say her daughter was in France. "As to how she got to Portsmouth or how she managed to get on the ferry without a ticket or a passport, we don't know."

Clair recently spent a holiday in the Domaine des Ormes area of Brittany and had wanted to return to visit friends there, police said.

IRA bomb stalls lottery grant

A DECISION on whether to grant £13 million of lottery cash to refurbish a leading theatre has been put on hold, because the building was wrecked by the IRA's Manchester bomb.

The Arts Council of England today announced that its grant to the Royal Exchange Theatre would be £3.2 million, a quarter of the level requested. But a council spokeswoman said the money — one of 56 new grants totalling more than £41 million — was intended to help keep the Exchange company going until its home was made safe and improved.

The Royal Exchange company had put in its £17 million improvement scheme before the Arts Council before the June 15 blast.

The cash aid is the fourth biggest grant announced yesterday. The biggest is £13.7 million towards an £18.6 million final phase to a project in Stratford town centre in east London, including a new performing arts centre and improvements to the Theatre Royal Stratford East.

The winning numbers in last week's lottery draw were 13, 17, 26, 28, 31, 36, and the bonus number was 44.

Plan to test 'key skills'

TEENAGERS may have to pass separate numeracy and literacy tests to win places at universities, according to plans being drawn up by government advisers. Team-working, communication skills and self-motivation could also be measured, they believe. By the end of the century, scores in these "key skills" and other achievements — held on a database — could be as important for students as A-level grades.

A potential revolution in measuring achievement is being pioneered by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, working with government curriculum advisers and funded by the Department for Education and Employment. A model of the database, initially intended to give universities electronic access to applicants' exam results, is due to be unveiled next week.

P is for problem cars

NEW P-registration cars were still breaking down in droves yesterday, fourth day of the motor trade's busiest month. Many drivers got no further than the end of their streets as their coveted possessions ground to a halt.

The AA and RAC said they had been called out to almost 500 P-reg cars over the weekend. Some had seized gearboxes, oil leaks, collapsed suspension and even petrol caps which would not come off. Others suffered loss of power, faulty indicators and doors that would not shut.

An AA spokeswoman said: "Part of the trouble is owners haven't read their handbooks properly or they have been wrongly advised by the salesman. In other cases, dealers have obviously been too busy to carry out the pre-delivery inspections properly."

Queen Mother is 96

MORE than 1,000 people turned up at Sandringham yesterday to celebrate the Queen Mother's 96th birthday. The Queen Mother, in a mint-green floral dress coat and matching hat, took a 33-minute walkabout among cheering well-wishers.

She walked carefully with a stick but appeared to be in good health and showed no ill effects from the hip replacement she underwent last November.

Potholer dies in Pennines

A 24-year-old woman potholer died of head injuries when she fell while climbing in the Yorkshire Pennines, police said. Christine Bleakley, from Irvingston, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, was climbing in Quaking Pot at Ingleborough, near Settle, on Saturday. She had been staying at Tan Pits Conservation Centre, Chorley, Lancashire.

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Claire Gibson, who has lived in Coat for two years, at the entrance to the proposed factory site. 'There are worries about security and there will be an ever present fear about an accident waiting to happen'

Brigadier joins battle over hamlet magazine

Geoffrey Gibbs reports on well-to-do Somerset residents preparing for war over plans to build an arms factory

IT IS the sort of hamlet estate agents describe as "well to do" and "sought after." Properties rarely come on the market. When they do, they don't come cheaply. Home to a mixed community of farmers, professional people and senior military officers — including Brigadier Robin Seaby, commander of the British Forces in Bosnia three years ago — it is the very picture of English rural tranquillity. But the residents of Coat, Somerset, (population 100) are furious about a company's plans to build an explosives magazine in a disused railway cutting on their doorstep.

Interstate Technical Products has been discreetly manufacturing a range of small arms ammunition on an industrial estate in the nearby town of Martock for 13 years. It turns over about £330,000 a year but needs to move to a more isolated site to expand its business, about 95 per cent of which is done with overseas police and military customers. Bob Lawson, the company's owner and manager, thought he had found the ideal site in the 400-yard long railway cutting to the east of Coat, listed on council records as a waste tip.

His application for an explosives factory licence under the 1975 Explosives Act secured the assent of Somerset county council last week after the Health and Safety Executive approved. But there will be a battle royal when he submits his planning application to the local planning authority. "Nobody in the village will break the law but we are going to oppose this right down the line at every stage of the planning process," said a Coat resident.

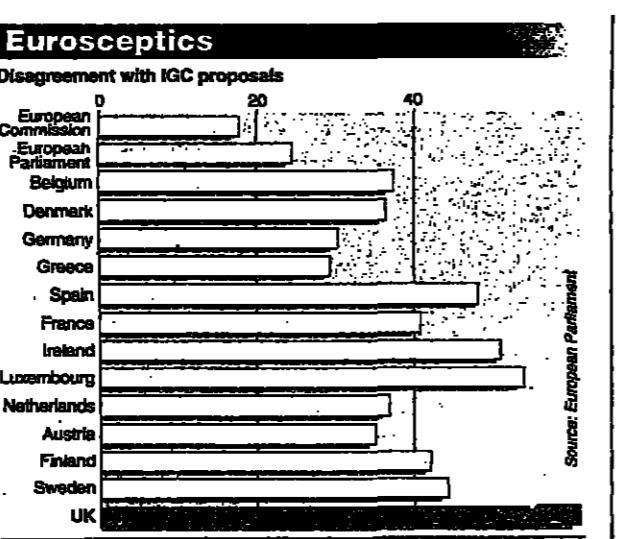
Villagers say CS gas will be stored at the installation. Brigadier Seaby said in a statement to the county council that villagers were very concerned at the risk posed by the gas in the event of an accident. "Given the correct wind vector and a breeze of only six miles an hour, the CS gas hazard would reach dwelling houses in the village within two minutes. Surely this cannot be acceptable." Villagers are due to formulate an action plan at a meeting later this month and are printing tee-shirts with a Keep Coat Bulletproof logo.

A fighting fund is being raised to employ a planning expert to contest the application. A £15,000 counter bid has been made to try to buy the railway cutting in the hope of strangling the scheme at birth. Mr Lawson, who wants to be able to store up to 4½ tonnes of explosives at the site, says the buildings would be screened by grassed earth banks so that any blast in the event of an accident would go upwards. Most of the time the magazine would be empty after orders were shipped out.

He denies the village would be disturbed by noise from an underground tunnel testing range and says the company's livelihood will be affected if it is unable to move to the more isolated site. "I would like to reassure residents that Interstate is heavily regulated and controlled by the Explosive Inspectorate of the HSE who have approved the plans on grounds of safety," he said in a statement issued after the county council decision. But a villager said: "People are very scared. They are scared of robberies from the site and scared that there may be an accident." They are also opposed to any industry near their homes. Claire Gibson, who has lived in Coat for two years and is expecting her first child, said the hamlet was an inappropriate site for the proposed magazine. "There are worries about security and there will be an ever present fear about an accident waiting to happen."

Britain faces more EU clashes

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent
BRITAIN is heading for a collision with its European partners over integration, according to the European Policy Forum think-tank. The Government is in a minority of one on 35 issues, and opposes 98 out of 148 proposals put forward for the Inter-Governmental Conference next July. The details have emerged in talks with the Irish presidency of the European Union, which show that disagreement extends far beyond the main row over adopting a single currency in 1999. Among the subjects which Britain is isolated are extending qualified majority voting on all subjects where Britain has a veto; including the Social Chapter in the new European Treaty; extending



These include rejecting an extension of the European Commission in foreign policy and giving individual member states more flexibility over interpreting European Union directives. Altogether Britain has rejected 98 proposals. Germany has rejected 29, France 35, Denmark 35, Finland 40 and Sweden 42. Graham Mather, president of the European Policy Forum and a Conservative MEP, said yesterday: "This shows it is not just the single currency that Britain is opposing, underlining the need for a referendum, but also suggests that Britain may have to negotiate a flexible agreement on a whole range of issues." Britain's Relationship with the EU, by Graham Mather and Wes Hines. Available from European Policy Forum, 20, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. £7.50

Rifkind ready to 'tear up Birt plan'

Andrew Cuff on how Foreign Secretary is ready to save BBC World Service
MALCOLM Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, may tear up John Birt's heavily-criticised plans for the BBC World Service, according to ministerial sources. Mr Rifkind, angered by having been kept in the dark about the changes until the day of the public announcement last month, is opposed to the merger of the World Service's English language and news programmes with BBC domestic departments. The World Service is paid for by the Foreign Office. According to Cabinet sources, reported by the Daily Mail, he is to use a meeting in



October with Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman, to block the shake-up. He is expected instead to discuss new proposals for efficiency measures that would preserve the service as an integrated unit. Mr Rifkind last week told the Commons foreign affairs committee that the Government was impressed by the clamour of opposition to the Birt changes. Protests have come from prominent politicians and public figures and serving and former World Service staff. The select committee's report accused Mr Birt, the BBC's director general, of misjudgment and a cavalier attitude, and told ministers not to automatically accept the changes. According to the Daily Mail, ministers feel that ripping the programme-making heart of the World Service out of its Bush House headquarters and moving it to an isolated and anonymous new centre at White City, west London, would be disastrous for its independence and character. Mr Rifkind ordered the setting up of a joint BBC/Foreign Office working group, to be chaired by civil servant Christopher Battiscombe and Sam Younger, managing di-

rector of the World Service, to analyse the changes. It will have access to independent experts and is expected to report in late September. It is understood it was set up partly to ensure no irreversible changes were introduced before the October showdown. A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday: "The working group is in the process of being set up. The Foreign Secretary and Sir Christopher will meet in October to look at the working group's conclusions. There is nothing to add." Last month the BBC's governors agreed to press on with the changes, but were also keen to push ahead with a plan to move the entire World Service — including foreign language departments — to a single site at White City. The lease on Bush House expires at the end of 2004.

Poetry Competition £18,000 prize money to be won

The International Library of Poetry, an affiliate of the widely respected US National Library of Poetry, is sponsoring an International Open Amateur Poetry Competition. There will be a new contest each month and each contest will award one Grand Prize of £1,000, plus ten Second Prizes of £50 each. The closing date for entry is 31st August 1996. Another competition begins on 1st September 1996. The competition is open to all and entry is free. "It's always exciting to discover new talent. We have been sponsoring competitions in the United States for more than ten years now — and it's a special pleasure to be running these events in the UK," stated Howard Ely of The International Library of Poetry. "We're especially interested in receiving poems from new or unpublished poets." How to Enter: Anyone may enter the competition simply by sending in one original poem, any subject, any style, to: The International Library of Poetry Dept. 9175 FREEPOST LON 2229 WHITSTABLE, Kent CT5 3BR. Poems should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address must appear at the top of the page. Entries must be typed or neatly handwritten and will not be returned. All poets who enter will receive a reply along with complete competition rules, within nine weeks. The International Library of Poetry, 46 Joseph Wharton Bldg., Millwood Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3PE.



The Coming of Dawn, featured above, is one of the Library's recent deluxe hardbound anthologies.

Survival hope for faithful sea horse

Martin Wainwright
IN A COUPLE of undignified plastic bags, spiny sea horses have set out for a national breeding experiment which shows every sign of restoring their falling population. Betrayed by pollution and a touching loyalty to a single mate, the spiny sea horse, one of Britain's most curious creatures, has been successfully reared in captivity in Britain for the first time — multiplying from eight adults in June to a 250-strong family. Bagged-up deliveries of the 3cm juveniles have been despatched to 15 marine centres from Oban to Newquay by staff at the Sea Life park, in Weymouth, Dorset, who concocted a plankton diet for the infant spines. The species, Hippocampus ramulosus, had previously defied attempts at rearing because food provided for other types of sea horse proved fatal to its young. Neil Garrick-Malden, of the Seahorse Aquarium in Exeter, which is co-sponsoring the scheme, said: "We now need to identify existing spiny sea horse sites offshore where releasing these captivity-bred young will have the best chance of success." The first bags of spines



Spiny sea horse... captive breeding improves prospects of species that mates for life

Benefits agency makes £40m pension error

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent
AN ERROR by the Benefits Agency has given at least 50,000 former public sector workers a double increase in their pensions every year for up to five years. The agency admits the mistake but is denying liability for the costs, which run into tens of millions of pounds. Pension funds are being left to pick up the bill. According to the agency, some funds are seeking to claw back the overpayments from their pensioners. Others are merely reducing pensions to the correct level and writing off the excess paid. A Labour MP yesterday said he was writing to Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, to demand an inquiry into what appeared to be an "appalling cock-up". Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West, said: "Either the pension funds are going to be out of pocket, or pensioners are going to find themselves short-changed to make up for Benefits Agency bungling." The error has affected people who have chosen to continue receiving tax-free invalidity pensions instead of the taxable state pension between state retirement age — 60 for women and 65 for men — and the maximum invalidity pension ages of 65 and 70 respectively. Public service pension schemes have to uprate occupational pensions in line with prices. But they should only uprate the sum that is the difference between the total pension and the guaranteed minimum pension — the amount of state earnings-related pension the individual would have received had the scheme not contracted out of Serps. Owing to the agency's error, the pension schemes have continued to uprate the entire occupational pensions which have also been uprated by the agency. An agency spokesman said procedures to avoid double uprating had been devised in the 1980s by a working party of civil servants and pension scheme officials. "Regrettably, these procedures broke down in the situation where a person who is receiving invalidity pensions reaches state pension age." A notification stating that the individual had "not retired" had been sent to the relevant scheme in such cases and the scheme had consequently uprated the entire occupational pension. "It is our error, but it is not our money. It is the pension schemes who have overpaid, so they are doing different things about it," the spokesman said. The agency says it has sent 32,000 letters about the mistake to schemes in respect of pensioners still receiving invalidity pensions. One estimate puts the total affected, including those who have already passed the maximum ages for invalidity pensions, at 85,000. On the basis of these figures, the total overpaid is likely to be between £40 million and £70 million.

Tanzania blocks fuel shipments and closes border as UN report reveals more massacres by Tutsi army

Screw tightens on Burundi

Chris McGreal in Bujumbura

TANZANIA has added bite to the sanctions imposed on Burundi in retaliation for the military coup ten days ago by blocking oil shipments, turning back lorries at the border and halting commercial flights. Burundi's new military government is relying on another neighbour, Rwanda, to take a less rigorous approach and so ease the pain of the blockade. But the latest United Nations report, which blames Tutsi soldiers for the wholesale slaughter of Hutu civilians in recent months, will further diminish sympathy for the new regime. Tanzania has struck where it is likely to hurt most by shutting off Burundi's main

source of oil, normally delivered by railway from Dar es Salaam and then barge across Lake Tanganyika. Yesterday a Tanzanian official said they were burning 800 tons of fuel, as well as passenger ferries, from leaving port. Lorries have been queuing at land borders since Friday, when Tanzania shut the frontier to freight, and commercial flights between the two countries have been grounded. Burundi says it has fuel stocks sufficient for several weeks, but the government is already considering rationing to conserve petrol supplies for the war against Hutu rebels. Some garages are imposing their own limits on sales to individuals. Some of Bujumbura's residents have been stockpiling supplies since sanctions were announced, even though state

radio has made no mention of the blockade. Tanzania's hard line will undoubtedly sting Burundi, but the new military regime is hoping to re-route supplies through Rwanda, where comments by some Tutsi officials suggest the government is backtracking on its commitment to a full blockade. But Rwanda is vulnerable to pressure from Uganda, which has shown little sympathy for Burundi's military. Although the blockade was imposed in response to the coup, the demands of Burundi's neighbours go wider. They are hoping, among other things, to put pressure

on the new regime to negotiate with the Hutu rebels and bring the army under control. The latest UN report confirms how deep the problems go. The UN Centre for Human Rights has uncovered 17 previously unrecorded massacres by Burundi's overwhelmingly Tutsi army in the past

One of the incidents described was on June 27 at Nyeshenza, in the battle-scarred province of Cibitoke. Hutu rebels attacked a tea convoy, a favourite economic target. Tutsi soldiers responded by rounding up about 500 people in Nyeshenza whom the army accused of being "assailants". They were marched from the town to a site near a church and murdered with guns and bayonets. After the massacre, thousands of Hutus fled the area for Zaire and Rwanda. In an effort to make his government appear more legitimate, Burundi's new military leader, Pierre Buyoya, named a 23-member government at the weekend. The announcement was delayed for several days as Major Buyoya tried to bring on board politicians accept-

able to most Burundians. He largely failed. Although the new government offers an ethnic balance with Burundi's Hutu majority representing about the same proportion as the Tutsi minority — there is little political balance. Most of the Hutus in the cabinet are from the Tutsi-dominated Uprona party, which is close to the army and played an instrumental role in creating the coup. Political heavyweights from Frodebu — the mainly Hutu party which overwhelmingly won Burundi's only free election three years ago — are noticeably absent. Some of Frodebu's former cabinet ministers, including the deposed president Sylvestre Ntibunganya, are still sheltering in Western embassies.

Although the new regime offers ethnic balance, there is little political balance

ment to a full blockade. But Rwanda is vulnerable to pressure from Uganda, which has shown little sympathy for Burundi's military. Although the blockade was imposed in response to the coup, the demands of Burundi's neighbours go wider. They are hoping, among other things, to put pressure

four months. Up to 3,000 were murdered in the attacks. The report says Hutu rebels were also responsible for murders over the same period, but concludes that "the greatest number were killed by elements of the Burundian army", in reprisal for attacks on the civilian population.

Desert troops 'alert for terrorist attack'

WESTERN forces in Saudi Arabia were on alert for an imminent terror attack yesterday following a sudden increase in Gulf tensions over the bombing of a United States air force barracks in the kingdom in June. US, French and British troops stationed at Saudi military installations adopted identical top-level security measures. The US defence secretary, William Perry, separately, the US warned Kuwait of security threats from Iraq and "other countries in the region", the Gulf state's foreign minister said. American troops in Saudi Arabia have been bombed twice in seven months. A fuel-truck bomb killed 19 US marines at a housing complex near Dhahran in June. Five Americans and two Indians were killed by a car bomb in Riyadh last November. On Friday, Mr Perry singled out Iran as "certainly the leading candidate for international terrorism directed against the United States", and said that Washington would take strong action against any country proved to be involved in the Saudi bombings. He would not say what that action would be. Yemen said yesterday it was hunting a Yemeni suspected of helping four Saudis who confessed to the Riyadh car-bombing. An interior ministry official said the fugitive fled to Yemen from Saudi Arabia before the blast. In the Gulf meanwhile, 15,000 US sailors and marines in dozens of ships, including an aircraft carrier battle group, were involved in a military exercise to test America's ability to set up operations in the region quickly. *Reuter, Dubai.*

Alarm over felled forests

POOR farmers in the Third World practising slash-and-burn agriculture could destroy half the remaining forest cover, and logging threatens the rest, an international agricultural research organisation warns yesterday. Soaring numbers of poor farmers are major contributors to the loss of 38 million acres of tropical forests every year, a report by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, which is supported by four United Nations affiliates, said. The world's tropical forests have been reduced to about 5 billion acres, from 5.5 billion in 1980, according to UN figures. "A hundred years ago, slash-and-burn was a very well adjusted system," said Ismail Serageldin, the Egyptian scientist who chairs the consultative group. "You had a very small population against a very large forest cover. ... If you farm two hectares (5 acres) and there are 14 hectares of fallow, it's an OK system. But with the huge demographic explosion that has happened, there is no solution to this without solving the poverty problem." The solution was for farmers to learn more intensive cultivation techniques and grow new crops, in particular trees with multiple uses which also reforest the land with nutrients. Governments must better regulate land use and allow some food prices to rise to the benefit of farmers. But Kenya's leading environmentalist, Wangari Maathai, said: "Poor people are the victims, not the cause [of the problem]. In Kenya, we are fighting to protect the remaining indigenous forests from some of the richest people in the country." — *New York Times, United Nations.*

Black anger at police raid

A RAID by helmeted police officers in riot gear and riding in an armoured personnel carrier with mounted automatic guns provoked a formal protest from a black community in the South Central part of Los Angeles. A house which the police believed held a suspected murderer was occupied only by women and children: the man's mother, a boy aged 13, a girl aged 16, an infant and a neighbour, Alesha Dyer, aged 20. The suspect, Demetrius Franklin, aged 20, surrendered when he heard of the raid and denies any crime. During the raid last month — reported only in the latest edition of a black weekly, the Los Angeles Sentinel — police officers manhandled the teenage girl while trying to handcuff her, witnesses said. Ms Dyer accused them of rudeness and unwarranted force. More seriously, the complaint alleges that the officers did not produce a search warrant until after the raid, and Mr Franklin's name was not on it. A police spokesman said: "The man we were looking for had a history of firearms, was a known gang member and did commit a brutal murder. Our intention was to prevent armed confrontation." — *Christopher Reid, Los Angeles.*

Sri Lanka troops pound rebels

SRI LANKAN troops backed by tanks and air support renewed their thrust against Tamil Tiger rebels in the north yesterday as the authorities braced themselves for a flood of refugees fleeing the fighting, military and aid officials said. Air force bombers and helicopter gunships pounded rebel positions as troops resumed their advance at dawn from northern Paranthan towards rebel-held Kilinochchi, 180 miles north of Colombo, after a week-long lull, a military spokesman said. The rebels accused the troops of indiscriminate shelling of Kilinochchi, saying nearly 200,000 civilians had fled the town. Aid officials said they were preparing 35 schools in and near the town of Vavuniya, 44 miles south of Kilinochchi, to accommodate the anticipated influx of refugees. — *Reuter, Colombo.*



AN archaeologist dusts off a twin-headed statue, believed to be of the great pharaoh Ramses II, discovered last week near the Giza pyramids in Egypt. The unfinished 11ft granite statue shows the king, who ruled in the 13th century BC, in human form and as the sun god Re-Harakhti

Town rejects nuclear plant

IN Japan's first referendum, a coastal farming town returned a resounding No yesterday to a plan to build a nuclear power plant. The election commission of Maki, about 160 miles north-west of Tokyo, said the final tally was 22,478 against and 7,804 in favour, in a turnout of 83 per cent of eligible voters. The referendum stemmed from Tohoku Electric Power Co's 1989 proposal to build a \$25,000-kilowatt nuclear plant at Maki. The plan has divided the community ever since. While the result is not legally binding, the town's mayor had promised to block the sale of council property to the company if residents voted No. The power firm has vowed to go ahead, saying it already has 96 per cent of the land it needs. — *Reuter, Maki.*

"My taste for dead bodies," says Vathek's usually lingerie-clad mother, "and everything like mummy, is decided".



A coca farmer waving the Colombian flag faces troops at the airstrip of Puerto Asis in Putumayo province on the border with Ecuador. On Friday, two people were killed and at least 15 injured by security forces when several thousand farmers tried to march on the airport to protest at the government's American-backed programme to eradicate drug crops. The town, which has been taken over by an estimated 15,000 farmers, has become a focal point for demonstrations

Rebel love-in ends in mud and muddle

3,000 global guests have left Mexico's Zapatistas giddy, Michael McCaughan writes

REALITY was the name of the village, but the thousands of guests from around the world who concluded a conference organised by indigenous rebels in south-east Mexico at the weekend left with a dream — to establish an intercontinental network of resistance to struggle for a "new world". Greens, gays, anarchists, artists, intellectuals, Indians, repentant Stalinists and ex-guerrilla fighters from 43 countries descended on Chiapas, demonstrating the extraordinary magnetism of the Zapatista rebel movement, which fought a 30-month war by mainly non-violent means, principally the media. The logistics of the event would have scared off the bravest of rock promoters; food, toilets, transport and sleeping quarters for 3,000 guests had to be transported by 2,000 Zapatista volunteers to five different locations during the rainy season. At the entrance to each of the sites, termed *Aguaclaras* after the rebel conference during the first Mexican revolution, the rules of engagement were written in black and red. Alcohol and drugs strictly forbidden and no skinny-dipping. The size of the event ruled out in-depth discussion among the participants from Iran, Cuba, Zaire, Turkey, Australia, France, the United States and Japan, among other countries. They agreed on who the enemy was, but found difficulty in formulating a practical response. The battle strategies varied wildly — one Basque wanted to set up a special day when

Harassed Megawati stands fast

JKARTA will tense itself for possible demonstrations today when lawyers for the ousted Indonesian opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri go to the city police headquarters. Megawati has been summoned for questioning on riots in the capital, but has decided to leave it to her lawyers to sort out what they say are flaws in the summons. Staying away will also give her advisers time to try to

work out the authorities' intentions. Nine days after the police stormed the office of her Indonesian Democratic Party, sparking off the violence, troops have restored order but not calm to the capital, where Megawati faces pressure from the government to give up her struggle to keep the party leadership. Megawati shows no sign of weakening. "What I am trying to do is consolidate the party through Indonesia," she says. The campaign to stop her, she warns, is likely to add to the resentment that exploded on July 27 into the worst riots for more than 30 years. The police called Megawati for questioning as "a witness in the criminal case of intentionally spreading hatred against the president". A similarly worded summons to the dissident politician Sri Bintang Pamungkas led to a 34-month jail sentence for insulting the president, which is still under appeal. The police questioning will probably focus on speeches made at her party headquarters before the security forces stormed it. Megawati says that the source of the riots was the "unconstitutional" PDI congress arranged by the military in June. Military commanders say that her faction of the PDI has links to neo-communist groups. Megawati denies any subversive intent, dismisses suggestions that she may have links to former communists, and says she hardly knows anything about the tiny People's Democratic Party, which military identify as Indonesia's new communist peril.

Singapore helped by lawn and order

SINGAPORE'S secret weapon to lure foreign investors during the 1960s has finally been revealed: well-kept trees and manicured gardens. Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father and former prime minister of modern Singapore, told the Straits Times in a recent interview that he personally directed a campaign to turn the swampy mosquito-infested island into a series of carefully nurtured lawns and flower beds. He added that it was "a certain subtle way" of convincing potential investors that the country was efficient, even though it was deep in poverty. "To maintain a garden is a daily effort and if you can maintain it, it means you are capable of punctuality and systematic work." The greenery must have worked its charm, because foreign investment became the engine of economic growth and prosperity that turned the resourceless

Ethiopia banks on history

THE Bank of Abyssinia was one of Africa's oldest banks, but it closed with the Italian invasion of Ethiopia under Mussolini in 1941. Today the bank reopens for business in a bright, white office block on Addis Ababa's main Bole Road. Tkalign Gedamu, the bank's chief executive officer, says: "It was the first private bank in the country, and that is why we have chosen to open with the same name." The bank was founded in 1906 by Emperor Menelik, along with the country's first hospital and printing press. It was financed by the Franco-Ethiopian railway from Djibouti, 430 miles inland to the new capital at Addis Ababa. At first, the bank's backers were British, through the National Bank of Egypt. When the Italians came, they liquidated the bank, which had been nationalised four years earlier. Menasse Lemana, a former bank employee who became finance minister after Emperor Haile Selassie's return

s for etrial

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Mostar's menace
Tackling Tudjman's blackmail

A BOSNIAN CRISIS has once again put Western countries on the spot. The US president has been humiliated because of a powerful regional leader: an ultimatum has been defied leaving mediators uncertain whether to carry it out and perhaps precipitate a wider breakdown. This time it is not Radovan Karadzic and the Bosnian Serbs who are thumbing their noses. It is the Bosnian Croats and Franjo Tudjman, president of independent Croatia whose premature recognition by Germany — followed by the EU — was the prelude five years ago to disaster. Mr Tudjman compounded the injury by blackmailing Washington into giving him a personal interview with Bill Clinton — and then failing to deliver the goods. His 15 minutes on Friday in the Oval Office produced the pictures and the handshakes which feed the ego of this vain quasi-dictator. In return he was supposed to bring his Bosnian Croat protégés into line so that they would accept the result of the July elections in divided Mostar, and start dismantling their self-proclaimed statelet of the "Croatian Republic of Herzeg Bosnia." Both goals are now in doubt.

The same pattern has been followed as in so many confrontations with the Bosnian Serbs and their backdoor boss President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia. First there is apparent agreement by the principals. Then there is a mood of optimism amid reports that talks are "making progress." Finally there is despair as local clients refuse a reasonable compromise. Breakdown on a specific issue also threatens resolution of a much larger one — in this case whether the results of approaching Bosnia-wide elections will be treated with the same contempt.

As previously, it may still be possible to finesse some sort of deal at the thirteenth instead of the eleventh hour: this can be the Bosnian way of getting things agreed. But the EU's mandate will have been weakened for the future. If the issue really were the stated one of irregularities in the Mostar election, there would be agreement already. The EU offered several concessions: it promised to investigate the fairly minor irregularities in an election station for Mostar voters living in Germany, and it offered to confine decisions by the new Mostar city council to those of a consensus nature until the dispute was resolved. But at root the Croatian objection is based on a much more serious claim: the Bosnian affiliate (HDZ) of Mr Tudjman's ruling party insists that Mostar is "historically Croatian", and that it is the capital city of all Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their whole election campaign was run on the proposition that the town should remain divided on a strictly ethnic basis into Croatian and Muslim municipalities in West and East Mostar.

Spits among the Bosnian Croats, between the mayor of West Mostar Mijo Brajkovic and the local party leader Jadranko Toplic, may have intensified Croatian opposition to the election result. So may the influence of the Croatian mafia, described yesterday by the EU special envoy Sir Martin Garrod in healthily undiplomatic language as "scum" who rule by terror and must be "cleared out." But the Zagreb regime claims the glory for Croatian resurgence and must take the responsibility too. As the former EU team leader Hans Koschnick argues, US and German strategy to make Croatia their key ally in the Balkans fatally undermines pressure upon the president. The goal of a properly functioning Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia, essential to the Dayton accord, will never be achieved until Mr Tudjman himself is threatened with isolation.

Not so hot in Atlanta
But we all lose some of them sometime

NOT EVEN THE final dawn in Atlanta brought any relief for our long-suffering nation. In the end there was no eleventh hour golden turn-up for the Olympic record books (British section). No cavalry rescue of the nation's fading hopes such as the legendary Foxhunter and Dai's dad managed all those decades ago in Helsinki.

But the line between perceived triumph and perceived disaster is much thinner than the current national mood of unredeemed Olympic failure would imply. Take that legend of 1962; then, our worst ever Games was transformed by Colonel Harry's nag into an epic metaphor of British pluck. Again in Rome 1960, another disappointing British performance was redeemed by Don Thompson training in his bathroom to win a gold in an event no one much cared for before or since. At Munich we only had Mary Peters to cheer, and in Montreal Big Bren's bronze was Britain's only athletics medal of any kind. And who remembers who won anything in Seoul?

Barcelona was a hard act to follow. Linford Christie astonished us all with the finest ten seconds of his lifetime, transforming a great career into a superb one. Sally Gunnell was at her peak, winning one of the very few athletics golds that any British woman has ever secured. It was great in '92, just as it had been amazing in Moscow and Los Angeles to have Coe, Ovett, Wells, Daley Thompson and Tessa Sanderson produce a rare constellation of success (the boycotts helped, of course). Those were good years, but things could have been different very easily then, and they could have been different this time too.

Just suppose that Jonathan Edwards had triple-jumped another few centimetres, or Steve Backley propelled his javelin the length of a further stride. Then Britain would have won as many athletics golds in Atlanta as in Barcelona. Would there be all this national breast-beating? Would the Sunday papers have been full of editorials denouncing PC education policies which supposedly deter competitive sport? Would politicians be stumbling over one another to demand a better show and pledge more gold medals next time?

The truth is that these things come and go, for one nation and then another. Atlanta has been formidable for France, but all the French government grants, schools of excellence, sponsorship and the rest haven't been enough to bring Gallic triumphs in the past, even though it has all been in place for years. Ireland had an Olympic hall at Atlanta because a nation with no Olympic pool turned out a world-beating swimmer all the same. You can't plan for that, and you can't take credit for it either. Britain, like the rest of the average nations of the world, has good years and bad. This has been one of the not-so-good. But it's not a metaphor, not a crisis, not the end of anything except this year's Olympics. Give us a golden boy and a golden girl in Sydney in four years from now and Atlanta will be a distant memory.



"We will fight them on the beaches," W. Churchill.

Letters to the Editor

First among Labour's equals?

GORDON Brown (in the real world, August 2) goes to great pains to distinguish "equality of outcome" as advocated by Roy Hattersley (Balance of Power, July 25) from "equality of opportunity" as propounded by New Labour. The inescapable conclusion is to be drawn from this distinction is that you cannot have both at the same time. I beg to differ.

I cannot speak for Mr Hattersley, but for an old-fashioned socialist like myself these two objectives are not only compatible, but also mutually reinforcing. To provide the citizens with equal access to educational, training and employment opportunities is the starting point. However, if no egalitarian measures are taken beyond this stage, society merely becomes a meritocratic rat race. Those who had their formative years before New Labour embarked on its plans for education, training and employment opportunity will still be at a disadvantage. To leave such people high and dry surely is a total negation of socialism or even of social democracy.

of the population. Surely this is what a "stakeholder society" is supposed to remedy? Walter Cairns Broomhurst Hall, 836 Wimslow Road, Manchester M20 8RP.

GORDON Brown is confused or disingenuous. Equality of outcome is not about imposing the same level of attainment on everyone, as he suggests. Rather it seeks, through positive discrimination and positive action, to mitigate the social sources of inequality — impoverishment, poor housing, inadequate schooling, discrimination and so on — which disproportionately afflict ethnic minorities and women, to name but two disadvantaged groups.

The limitations of the concept of equality of opportunity have long been recognised. Beyond its intuitive appeal, its vision is empty and chimerical. Not least, how do we know if and when the limits of an individual's talents and preferences have ever been attained? But, more importantly, the concept is mediated through our society's reward system and invariably expresses itself in the right to compete for unequal rewards: if the rewards were not unequal there would be no competition. In other words, all equality of opportunity delivers is fairer chances to be unequal. Not

much equality there. Furthermore, unless the reward system provides sufficient prizes of equal worth for all those of equal talent and disposition, they cannot all have equal opportunities for success.

If as Brown says, "we are to bridge the gap between what people are and what they have it in themselves to become", then the issues which these observations raise have to be addressed. Brown knows this, but unlike Hattersley can't invoke socialism in support of the cause. His is the "real world" of New Labour, says Peter Bracken, 70 Colbarbour Road, Redland, Bristol, BS6 7LX.

I WROTE (Balance of Power, July 25) that if Gordon Brown insisted in attacking "equality of outcomes" it was important for him to find out what it is. He had taken that precaution before writing (in the real world, August 2) he would not have rallied against a nightmare of his own creation — "central imposition of outcomes (which) pay little regard to effort or desert and would threaten a state in which opportunities are not provided or imposed".

Gordon has become hypnotised by a single word. A socialist government, said RH Tawney (as quoted on July 25), should consider

whether the outcome of its policies produced more or less equality. Then, whenever possible, it should choose that option which, by making society more equal, actually reduces the drab uniformity that deprivation invariably creates. Does Gordon not agree with that?

Illustrating that principle, I referred to an unemployed man from my constituency in his mid-forties, with a sick wife, two children and a house from which the electricity had been cut off. He needs not the hope of a new flat in 20 years time but immediate financial assistance. Belief in equality of outcome requires that help to be provided, if necessary at the expense of higher income earners. Does Gordon — guided by a principle he did not set out on August 2 — propose to provide that help when he becomes Chancellor? Roy Hattersley MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA.

IT WAS good to see Gordon Brown proclaiming solidarity as one of the trinity of socialist values. Can we now look forward to a public declaration of solidarity with the tube, rail and postal workers? John Gorman, Galley Wood House, Aimes Green, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 2BJ.

Within boundaries, breaking up is the right thing to do in Brent

YOUR leader is right to highlight the advantages of reverting to former "small borough" boundaries in London, and abandoning the 1968 creation of "Brent" (Brent into Willesden won't go, August 3). There is a great popular yearning for the more practical, traditional civic identities.

And it would be a particular advantage of Labour's planned Greater London Strategic Authority (GLSA) that, by creating two-tier city-wide government, it would make it easier to recognise at the lower-tier the realities of local allegiance and identity. With matters of overall policy, direction and resource allocation handled at an all-London level, the whole balance of the governmental system would change. Many of the old "socialist" arguments for the present 32 "big boroughs" in 1963 would lose their force; smaller boroughs could be formed without administrative penalty, because the GLSA would have assumed responsibility for the necessary all-London thinking and planning. The boroughs could

then concentrate on the local functions of urban management and regeneration.

Cities need two-tier government. Single-tier government in London has been an acknowledged failure. The Labour GLSA would not recreate the GLC (which was not in any event a true upper-tier); the new all-London council would be a genuine upper-tier senior authority. And we argue that, with the advantages of two-tier government now in prospect for London, all our cities should be offered the same deal.

There are throughout the UK many Brents, many Willesdens, many Wembleys. Roger Warren Evans, Director, City Region Campaign, 26 Danbury Street, London N1 8JU.

BREAK UP Brent? It simply needs to be renamed the London Borough of Neasden. For a forward looking and empirically correct sub-title, "we're on the road to Wembley" would do nicely. Bron O'Brien, 145 Stoke Newington High Street London N16.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: You're unlikely to meet any one on Malham Topp, the craggy fell overlooking lovely Crummock Water. I've never seen anyone up there. So if you want to enjoy, on your own, a slightly unusual fell walk, quite short, completely free from eroded tracks, except at the very start, with outstanding mountain views, park your car at the Kirkstile Inn, Loweswater, and start walking. The start up the steep, craggy north ridge looks rather intimidating but is really — especially after a pint at the inn — a very pleasant scramble through heathery outcrops with magnificent aerial views. This brings you to the airy north top and, nearly a mile away with easy walking, the slightly higher south top. The length of Crummock Water lies below and across the dale rears the huge bulk of Grassmoor and its subsidiary summits. On a clear day you can easily pick out every yard of the splendid scrambling route

up Lorton Gully or any of the several ways up the fell. Other fells, including Gable, Pillar and Helvellyn, are also on view and, from the north top, a wonderful panorama of the Solway. But it is Grassmoor that mostly attracts the eye — a mountain that usually manages to appear much higher than it actually is. For the descent, most people go down to Crummock Water and the Scale Force track by the Scale Knott fence, but I always prefer the steep grass slope just beyond the south top that drops down to the lake shore at Low Ling Crag — a good test of balance that cuts about a mile off the round. If I can get down this neatly, without losing my footing, I feel my walking days are not yet over. The hole round can't be more than four miles from a pleasant morning walk for loosening up the muscles or, in high summer, an excellent evening outing after the heat of the day. A HARRY GRIFFIN

Hello, Mr Chips

ANTHEA Millet is right to be concerned about the declining number of male teachers in state primary schools (Chips, July 31). Boys and girls both need appropriate role models. However, while there may be fewer "Mr Chips" in the future, Mr Chips's chips are certainly not down. Most teachers in primary schools occupy a highly disproportionate number of positions of power.

My research in this area covers approximately 1,700 primary teachers in nearly 200 schools. Of the teachers 14 per cent are male, 86 per cent are female, yet 44 per cent of the schools have male heads. If one combines gendered positions of power and authority in primary schools (heads, deputies, promotion post holders) 65 per cent of



these male teachers occupy high status positions and receive a higher salary for doing so, while the same can be said of only 39 per cent of the female teachers. Such information could well be used to enhance male recruitment to primary teaching as their career prospects are clearly good, but it would not address fundamental equality issues, or necessarily attract the right people. Gendered role models in primary

education are clearly imbalanced but addressing the problem requires more than simply increasing the number of male teachers. (Dr) Mary Thornton, University of Hertfordshire, Wall Hall, Aldenham, Watford, Herts WD2 8AT.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk.

Herbal healing

TRUST that no one will be encouraged to rush down to a chaffy field to pick St John's Wort (Owen in the meadow you might cure the blues, August 2). It is a poisonous plant and can cause severe skin irritation. The homeopathic remedy Hypericum keeps all the healing properties of the plant, the toxins are removed during manufacture. Pat Cottrell, 35 Felshall Road, Trysull South Staffs WV5 7BN.

DON'T see a problem over the abolition of handbags (Letters, August 3). Legislation allows ownership to be withheld from known vandals. Since only a handful would want to own a handbag, anyone seeking a licence is unsuitable. David Thomas, 110 Ryelands Street Hereford HR4 0LD.

Pouring cold water with the meter running

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

THE PUBLIC Services Committee of the House of Commons has urged Britain another step towards honest and open government by insisting that ministers must "take special care to provide information that is full and accurate... and must, in their dealings with Parliament, conduct themselves frankly and with candour." I am so enthusiastic about their insistence that misleading ministerial statements should be taken "particularly seriously", that I offer my assistance in enforcing their recommendations. I invite them to examine a speech made by John Gummer (nee Selwyn Gummer), Secretary of State for the Environment, on July 9, 1996.

The debate to which I draw the Committee's attention was about water metering — a prosaic subject but one which, as we shall see, is vital to the welfare of some low-income families. It was opened by Frank Dobson — whom I

would call Mr Gummer's shadow were he not twice as substantial. He had barely begun when the Secretary of State popped up to interrupt him. As always, the minister spoke in the manner of a bishop who has just dropped a thurible on his toe. "The honourable gentleman has made an allegation which is entirely untrue. The Government do (sic) not wish to force people to have water meters. We are opposed to compulsory water metering." A couple of minutes later he was delicately balanced on his feet again. "I am opposed to the compulsory use of water metering because it would be expensive. Why is the honourable gentleman pretending that any one would do it?"

But read what amounts to the small print. Buried in a speech which lasted for more than an hour, Mr Gummer first enthused about private water companies' freedom to make their own decisions and then dealt with how they respond to that part of the privatisation act which allowed them to force water meters on their customers.

Almost everyone, he assured parliament, has a

choice. To meter or not to meter. That is a question that might have two answers — at least according to the Secretary of State for the Environment. Unfortunately the choice lies not with the consumer, but with the water companies which can, and do, impose on those metering their reluctant customers. Frank and candid is not the way in which I would describe Mr Gummer's description of the position.

I do not make a habit of studying Mr Gummer's speeches. But I forced myself to read Hansard for July 9 because of a letter I had received from a lady who wanted her water meter removed. I shall call her Mrs Selwyn — to preserve her anonymity and in memory of Mr Gummer's double-barrelled past before he became a minister. If there is half an unwanted name hanging about, she might as well borrow it for a while. She is in need of all the help she can get. My family (which consists of six people) was and still is living on income support and as a result is finding it extremely difficult to keep up a reasonable standard of hygiene. We

have to watch every drop of water that we use. At the moment we are having to choose between having a bath, washing the dishes and flushing the toilet. I have two children who suffer from severe eczema and need daily baths and frequent changes of bed clothes. So it is almost impossible to save water.

Mrs Selwyn is a customer of Severn Trent Water. So I

Before privatisation the idea that artesian wells might be needed in Birmingham would have been absurd

wrote to the company asking them to release her from the rigour of a water meter. James Hastings, Customer Accounting Manager (Metropolitan Unit) replied. She began with a little water industry history. "It was decided that all new supplies, where the water supply was connected on or after April 1989 should

be metered. As Mrs Selwyn was connected (in) September 1989 her supply was metered and will remain metered". It seems to me that Ms Hastings and Mr Gummer ought to get together.

We will pass lightly over the peremptory style of Ms Hastings' prose — pausing only to observe that the emphatic "will" appears a second time in her letter. It is more than her choice of words which demonstrates Severn Trent's insensitivity to the problem of low income families. Ms Hastings — intending to be helpful, I am sure — suggested that the Department of Social Security might pay Mrs Selwyn's water bill direct and deduct the appropriate amount from her Giro cheque before she received it. The alternative suggestion was "payment on a weekly basis". However — "the charges will remain the same". The basic fact of Mrs Selwyn's dilemma has escaped Ms Hastings. The water which the family needs costs more than it can afford, however the bills are arranged.

Recall that Severn Trent Water is a complete and absolute monopoly. At least in

theory, families which find electricity too expensive can heat their homes with gas and travellers who cannot afford train fares are free to take the bus. But water and water has a single supplier. It is also, after the air we breathe, the basic necessity of life. Perhaps I am turning sentimental, but it seems to me that a civilised society should not deprive even one of its members of what we have taken for granted since the Victorian publication of Dr Chadwick's cholera maps. We give money to War on Want to pay for artesian wells in Africa. The idea that they might be needed in darkest Birmingham would have been regarded as absurd 10 years ago. That was before privatisation.

Severn Trent's defence is that they were set up as a commercial undertaking not a charitable organisation. And they are right. There is only one answer to Mrs Selwyn's immediate dilemma. We need to turn Mr Gummer's fantasy into reality. No compulsory metering. For that to happen the water companies have to come back into public ownership.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Paris Diary

Alex Duval Smith

GINGERLY placing a book on the counter, the young American woman asked: "C'est combien? (How much?) In the time it took the cashier to say "65 francs", the customer had summoned up a rush of dejection: "How much is that in dollars?" This being Shakespeare & Company, she got away with being given a calculator rather than a tirade. The bookshop trades on its links with the Lost Generation - the American authors who, in the 1920s, escaped to Paris, away from intellectual and alcoholic inhibition. Right now, a visit to the self-consciously disorganised bookshop must be one of the few escapes from a bout of hostility towards Americans in Paris. Unless they go on a martial binge of Hemingway proportions at the Ritz Hotel bar. After the Olympic Games and the TWA 800 explosion, the Franco-American relationship is at a low ebb. At the best of times it is not great. The French are disgusted by protestant mercantilism and know they provided a haven for Hemingway, F Scott Fitzgerald and Henry Miller. As far back as 1875, Henry James described the American quarter on the Right Bank: "About one kilometre square running from the Rue de Rivoli... in which the most sacred point is Boulevard des Capucines by the Grand Hotel." The area still has Harry's Bar, the head office of American Express and Brentano's bookshop. When the Americans liberated Paris - let's not be churlish - they brought tokens which endured: Lucky Strike cigarettes, Ray Ban sunglasses and "le happy hour". Not to mention American English spelling, and the apostrophe, which the French always put in the wrong place. As a thanks, France hands out a sprinkling of *legions d'honneur* (Sharon Stone, Sylvester Stallone) and maintains a love-hate relationship with Disneyland-Paris and Tex-Mex food. Earlier this year, President Jacques Chirac could even draw some kudos at home from speaking English on CNN's Larry King Show. In the last few weeks, realities have banished the allure of Americana and affection for the US. "What's the use of the FBI?" is the cover story on L'Express this week. Between the lines, the message is clear: who cares about the Atlanta bomb (3 dead, many stories) when 48 French people died aboard TWA 800? The families of the French victims were reportedly sidelined during the English-speaking salvage operation and their quiet grieving was disturbed by the teddies and heart-shaped wreaths placed on Long Island beach by Americans. There was further anti-American fuel pumped in through reports from Atlanta. The "safest" games in history were shattered by a small bomb in a pipe. Athletes' names were displayed on a grindingly-slow computer. Young French people had been enticed to Atlanta to work for slave wages on side-shows. And all the buses were breaking down. In the midst of this adversity, France triumphed, coyly its best Olympic (36 medals, of which 15 have been gold) since before the second world war. President Chirac talked of the "historic results of a victorious French team which gives the world a fine image of our nation". But the arrogant Americans still had to be better: Marie-Josée Fécot won the women's 200 metre and 400 metre finals but Michael Johnson, with USA emblazoned on his chest, got all the plaudits. French commentators had a field day with all these things, totally disregarding the fact that US families involved in the TWA 800 explosion were displaced also at the way they were treated. Let's face it: the perceived ineffectiveness of the FBI - founded by a descendant of Napoleon Bonaparte - could have something to do with the restrictions on American legislation; the French secret services have unrestricted powers to bug, tap and harass. And Johnson set a world record in the most high-profile event of the Games; Fécot did not. It's enough to make you reach for the Zippos and light a Lucky Strike.

A free Derry without any more city walls

Commentary

Fintan O'Toole

IN JANUARY 1948, the editor of the BBC's *Chinese Service*, looking for a signature tune, hit on the idea that the old song *Lilliburlero* might be just the ticket. It sounded so well that, by the end of the year, it was adopted for English-language transmissions as well. It has been, ever since, the anthem of the World Service, a symbol of those great traditions of impartiality and balance which are currently being defended by the great and the good. It is not surprising that *Lilliburlero* should sound in Chinese ears like nothing more than a good tune, but there must be something poignant, especially to Protestants in Northern Ireland, in the idea that right-thinking people in the Home Counties might associate it with detached and cosmopolitan civility. For the tune has words, and they hark back to 1688 and the Siege of Derry, an event that is still helping

to shape Irish history. If you know any Irish, the song's refrain - "Lilliburlero bullen a la" - isn't the meaningless nonsense that most English people imagine it to be. It is a brilliant Protestant subversion of a Gaelic catch-cry. *An ille ba leir e, ba linne an la* - the lily (symbol of Orangeism) prevailed; the day was ours. For the song is a savage satire on Irish Catholics, a product of the political and sectarian struggles of the late 17th century. Its conversion into a signature tune for the World Service marks the distance between the Protestants of Northern Ireland, still insisting on the political identity that was forged in those old struggles, and the contemporary Britain to which they offer allegiance. The process by which historic passions become abstract and harmless - and songs like *Lilliburlero* become no more than hummable tunes - hasn't yet happened in Northern Ireland. Today in Derry, the Apprentice Boys, named after the 13 young men who closed the gates of the city against the armies of King James in 1688, will meet with the residents of the Catholic Bogside area to try to prevent a riot next Saturday. Last year, there was serious violence when the Apprentice Boys staged their traditional

march around the city walls. This year, after the ending of the IRA ceasefire and the sectarian confrontations sparked by last month's Drumcree stand-off, everyone knows that a repeat performance could have murderous consequences. In the next few days, the ability of two communities to deal with the past will have a crucial bearing on their future. The march around the walls is doomed, almost by the lie of the land, to contain a symbolic declaration of hegemony. The Protestants who are walking the battlements literally look down on the Catholics below. And in the past this implication of superiority has been explicit. The Boys, as well as singing anti-Catholic songs, also had the endearing habit of contemptuously throwing pennies down into the Bogside. In 1972, the Sunday Times Insight team described the march as "an annual political experiment of the most empirical kind. If the Catholics take the insult lying down, all is well. If they do not, then it is necessary to make them lie down."

But Derry has been transformed since 1982, and so has the meaning of the old triumphalist gestures. It was striking that most of the property damaged in the recent riots in the city was owned by the increasingly prosperous

Catholic middle-class that now dominates Derry. The balance of power has shifted irreversibly on to the Catholic side, a point made most forcibly last week when the SDLP and Sinn Féin majority on the city council voted to deprive the Unionist mayor Richard Dallas of the trappings of office because of his part in the disturbances during the stand-off at Drumcree. It is now the Catholics who have the responsibility that comes with power - the duty to be generous to the needs of the Protestant minority. If the Apprentice Boys have to show that their identity can be expressed without bigotry, they also have to be shown that Protestant fears of cultural annihilation at the hands of a Catholic majority are groundless. It is easy, in contemplating this double task, to slip into

What the original 13 boys did was show that real history is made by people who refuse to accept the inevitable

clichés about the grip of the past on the present and to assume with fatalistic resignation that what is happening is an endless and inevitable process of history repeating itself. This is especially the case because riots sparked by the same march led in 1988 to the fatalistic decision to send British troops into Northern Ireland. The run-up to the 1988 riots now seems eerily familiar: John Hume and the residents

of the Bogside appealing for the march to be banned, the authorities asking the Apprentice Boys to re-route their parade, and then, faced with a blank refusal, deciding to let it go ahead - an entirely predictable disaster being allowed to unfold. But this idea that the present is the prisoner of the past misunderstands history itself. The Apprentice Boys Clubs were founded, not in 1688, but in the 1820s, in order to revive the celebrations of the siege which had lapsed through lack of interest. The hundredth anniversary of the siege had been marked in Derry by Protestants and Catholics celebrating together. And even on the three hundredth anniversary of the lifting of the siege, in 1989, when the Troubles were still in full swing, Derry managed to stage a brilliant non-sectarian commemoration, with a pageant on the walls, the premiere of Shaun Davey's *Relief of Derry* symphony, and a fireworks display on the river. Both sides should remember when they sit down to talk about the original 13 boys actually did when they shut the gates of the city against the forces of a stupid and reactionary king. They showed that real history is made by people who refuse to accept the inevitable, who stand against the tide of events and deflect its course. Derry has the opportunity now, not to repeat history, but to make it. If a compromise can be reached, what happens on the walls of Derry next Saturday may again help to shape the destiny of the whole island, hastening the day when *Lilliburlero* in Ireland as it has long been in England, just a good tune.

Fintan O'Toole is a columnist with The Irish Times

The world not about us on the television

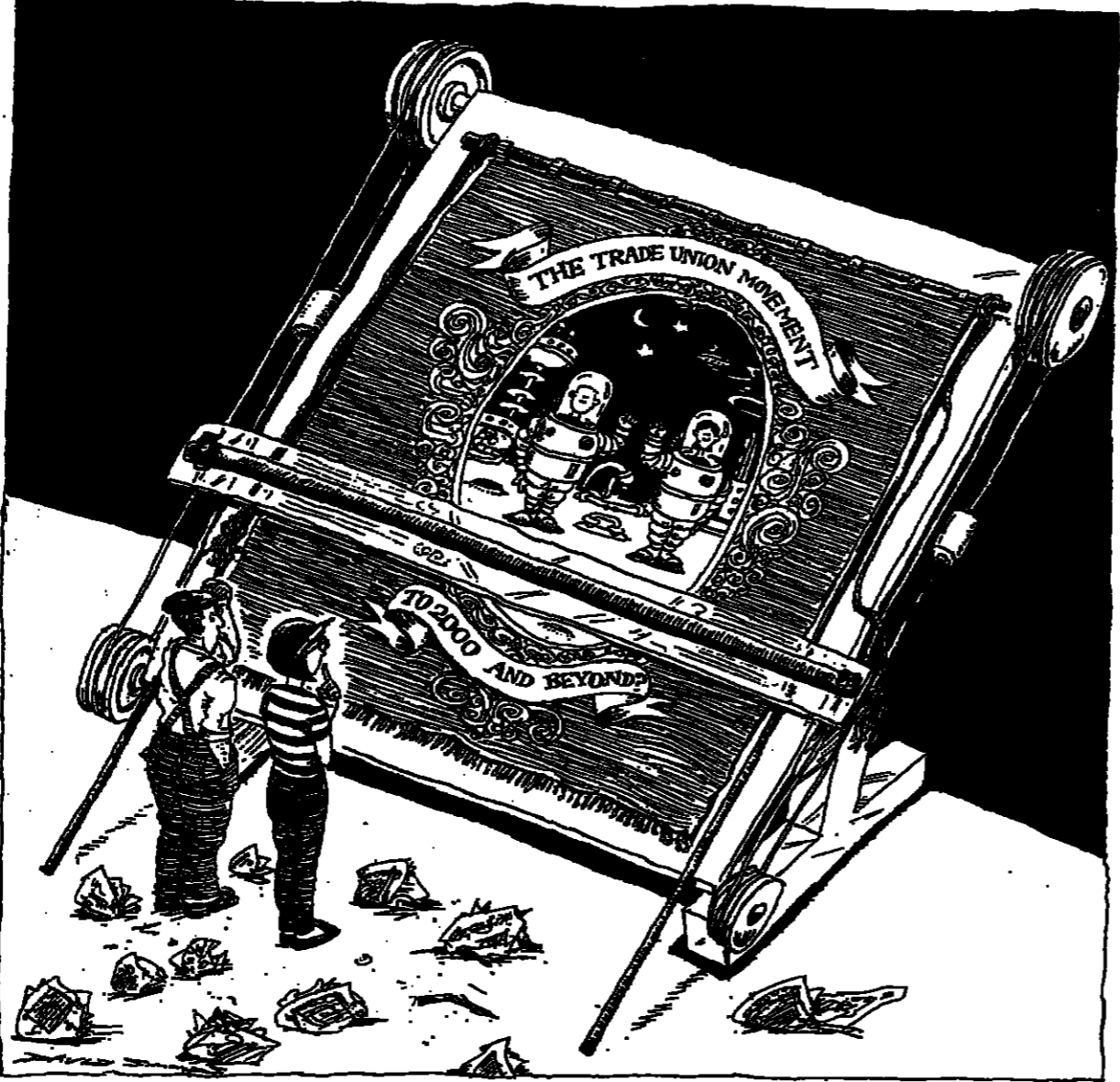


Ros Coward

REMEMBER the Children's village of Turville and the furore about the proposal to use its old school for "holidays for inner-city kids"? If nothing else, that has given a sudden insight into how London media folk really value the countryside. Newsnight might render the countryside and the environment almost invisible, but Jeremy Paxman, who was backing the proposal, obviously knows a rural idyll when he sees one. Currently, the environment could not sink much lower in television's priorities. Whereas the city with its obscure minority interests, its heterogeneity, its sexual transgressions and its crimes might be considered the source of "sexy" television, the policies of the environment are considered passé. In future, glimpses of the countryside may be confined to freak-show programmes like *Turkover*, TV which opened with an "amusing" sequence of someone headbutting a cow. Of course, television seems with wildlife programmes. But wildlife and the environment are not the same. Wildlife programmes are about the secret lives of attractive species; they command large budgets and support. But environmental programmes are more difficult. They examine people's interaction with the environment, the problems of conservation and the cost of our lifestyles to other species and peoples. Such programmes have become so uncommon that this year's Wildscreen festival has very few British programmes shortlisted for its conservation category. The last edition of the QED series showed what could be done. It dealt with the conservation of sea-horses in an uneasy partnership between scientist and local peoples. Not that you would have guessed this from the trailer, which sold it as a standard sex-life of strange species film. Wildscreen's judges note that "comparatively few broadcasters are producing strong programmes on difficult environmental issues, presumably because they are difficult to place". Environmentalists had already spotted this change. Unlike opera buffis, they have no specialist commissioning editor. Nor are there any flagship documentary series on the environment. Channel 4 used to have *Fragile Earth*. But that has been replaced by *Encounters*, an exploration series. Its commissioning editor says "we

have modernised, like Tony Blair... there's a limit to the number of times you can show all the polluted rivers. We've been there and done that. It's time to move on."

Boredom, almost antipathy, pervades TV's senior management when the environment is on the agenda. Attempts in the BBC to set up a watchdog committee on the environment were rebuffed. At last year's BBC briefing for programme-makers, Michael Jackson said environmental programmes were a turn-off because of doom and gloom. Channel 4's head of programmes says public interest in the environment is waning. Charles Secrett, Director of Friends of the Earth, says that this lack of interest doesn't reflect what the public wants, more "the narrow range of interest and experience of a particular coterie who run broadcasting". Public concern about environmental issues is at a high level. Recent MORI polls show two-thirds of the population concerned that British companies are not sufficiently attentive to environment, and 94 per cent worried about air pollution. These levels of concern are found over many issues and across all socio-economic groups and age groups. Normally, television would pounce on such findings as valuable evidence of a potential audience. But not when it comes to the environment. The conviction that environmentalists are synonymous with doom-merchants remains, even though that impression was formed by the commissioning policy in the late eighties. Executives remain convinced that wildlife audiences are escapists with tastes for stunning shots, conservationists are dour ideologues with grainy production values. But the QED programme proved the bounds of our lifestyles to other species and peoples. Television seems suited to cater for this unusual level of democratic interest in a science. Of the media, only the tabloids consider the environment as full as does TV. The radio has several programmes dedicated to the environment. Today and The World At One regularly cover environmental issues as hard news, not just when a disaster occurs. Broadcasters still take environmental issues seriously as news (but not features), although recently the sections have been squeezed. If ever proof were needed that television is taking its agenda from the tabloids, it is the shared neglect of the environment. The tabloids have an excuse. They only exist to enrich their owners. But the BBC and Channel 4 still have a public service remit with a responsibility for airing issues, educating, informing and clarifying. Perhaps the executives should consider this as they drive to their rural retreats.



Raise the banner

John Gray argues that trade unions, again under attack, are needed more than ever in their role as defenders against insecurity

ARE trade unions obsolete? Last week's proposals by Ian Lang, Prime Minister's secretary, aimed at Tony Blair. They apply the now familiar Tory strategy of confronting the Labour leader with policies that are designed to force him to choose between losing electoral support and risking conflict within his party. The current rash of strikes is undoubtedly a factor favour-

able to the Conservatives in the deliberations of many voters; but the suggestion of another massive assault on trade unions may actually alienate some wavering Tories. In a time of deep anxiety about job security, union-bashing is not the sure vote-winner it was in the eighties. As a recent NOP survey confirms, a large majority of voters endorse the reforms of industrial relations implemented in the eighties - but an equally large proportion opposes further restrictions on union activity. There is, moreover, overwhelming

public support for compliance with the European Union's directive on a maximum 48-hour working week. The electorate plainly does not believe that the balance of power in society has tilted too far in the direction of the unions, if anything, it believes the opposite. The Tories have not understood that the climate of economic insecurity, in conjunction with the deep

risk losing everything - your house, your prospects of ever returning to secure employment, even your marriage - is, in present circumstances, entirely reasonable. This is not an economic environment in which anti-union sentiment can be relied on by the Tories as a source of electoral support for another clutch of New Right policies. What the electorate are telling the pollsters is that, in an economic culture of pervasive insecurity, trade unions have a vital role. They are valuable intermediary institutions standing between wage-earners and the uncertainties and potential inequity of the free market. Protecting employees from the worst insecurities of the free market was the original rationale of trade unionism. The unions' role as a defence against insecurity accounted for their strong growth in the 1890s, a period not unlike our own in its economic inequalities and unregulated labour market. Now, as then, trade unions are indispensable defenders of elementary economic rights for millions of people. They are not less, but more important, now that we live in a largely deregulated global free market. This does not mean that the unions can - or should - hope to return to the posi-

The traditional role of unions in protecting their members' jobs will not disappear but neither will it dominate their activities as it did in the past

tion they occupied in Britain in the seventies. In European countries such as France and Germany, which have not been subject to a long period of liberal policy, membership of trade unions has nevertheless fallen steeply. Even in Britain, the decline in union membership since the late seventies has over half the workforce to around a third. The reasons are as much from developments in technology, production and world trade as from policies such as privatisation and the outlawing of closed shops.

THE shrinkage of mass manufacturing and the growth of leaner modes of production, together with the practices of outsourcing and international transfer of jobs that are made possible by new technologies, are all factors that reduce the leverage of trade unions over employers. It is this new economic environment of advancing globalisation, even more than the reforms of the eighties, that rules out any return to the traditional role of unions in protecting their members in an age of rapid technological change and enhanced global competition, they will need to do more than defend existing jobs. In collaboration with employers and government, they will need to support a sustained effort to reskill the workforce. A strategy of job preservation cannot ensure steady employment for long when new technologies are daily rendering existing skills redundant. In present conditions, re-skilling must be recurrent and almost continuous. The adversarial industrial culture of Thatcherite capitalism, in which the unions are constantly put on the defensive, has not helped them view firms as enterprises in whose efficiency they have a real stake. Yet the future for the unions cannot be in resistance to change. It must be in enabling their members to cope with it. Already, unions are coming increasingly to resemble the mutual societies of the past, providing financial services and other benefits to the skills of their members. The traditional role of unions in protecting their members' jobs will not disappear but neither will it dominate their activities as it did in the past.

What the unions need now is the opposite of Ian Lang's statist proposals. They need an accepted framework of law and policy that enables them to develop freely as autonomous institutions. Labour is committed to enacting a minimum wage, joining up to the Social Chapter and giving unions rights to representation when a majority in the workplace wants it. These commitments are essential if we are to move forward from the neo-Victorian industrial culture that Labour stands to inherit from the Tories.

Will they be an adequate response to the new anxieties of people at work? As globalisation and economic insecurity advance together throughout the world, overturning the free market, consensus and shattering political settlements, how Labour deals with the fears that have transformed public attitudes to the unions may determine its fate in government. John Gray is a Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford

Advertisement for Pilot pens. Text: "You don't have to use our pens - you could always rough it". Image of a Pilot pen. Text: "The Pilot V5 and V7 pure liquid ink Rollerball Pens offer you a genuine smooth writing experience. Pilots innovative ink controller delivers an exceptionally smooth writing feel for the whole life of the pen. The V5 has an extra fine point and writes a 0.3mm line width, the V7 has a fine point and writes a 0.5mm line width. Look out for Special promotion offers. Available from all Leading Stationers and Office Suppliers. PILOT PURE LIQUID INK RANGE 24 CARAT SMOOTHNESS."



Geoff Hamilton

Garden of his delights

ON FRIDAY evenings when the thought of weekend weeding loomed, it was the calm, efficient figure of Geoff Hamilton digging, pruning and weeding his way through BBC's *Gardener's World* that convinced television viewers that all was not lost in the garden.

Hamilton, who has died of a heart attack aged 59, was the ultimate gardening professional who, after more than 15 years of presenting the programme, managed to tread the line between informing the audience, without being patronising, that growing anything, however difficult, was worth a try. He had been gardening for more than 50 years now, "he once observed, "and I still can't get over that excitement every year, when you look over the trays of seedlings you planted out and wonder if they are going to come through — and they do."

Gardener's World, the programme which made Hamilton one of the most recognisable gardening presenters, began in 1978, presented from a garden in Haslemere, Surrey. After three years, it moved to a five-and-a-half acre site a mile away. There Hamilton lived with his second wife, Lynda, in a Victorian farmhouse, and a series of small gardens which formed the *Gardener's World* site.

Geoff Hamilton was born



Nature nurture... Hamilton never tried to be fashionable in his dress, either preferring the image of a countryman to townie

in his dress, either preferring the image of a countryman to townie. He was also a committed socialist and environmentalist, cycling wherever possible. Hamilton worked extremely hard on both his television and journalistic career. As well as *Gardener's World*, he presented series such as *Geoff Hamilton's Cottage Gardens*, wrote five columns for various magazines and worked in his nursery at Barnsdale.

He suffered his first heart attack last June and was told by doctors to continue gardening and do more cycling. However, it was while out on a cycle ride that he suffered his second, fatal attack.

Although he devoted most of his time to his garden at Barnsdale, he enjoyed choral singing with Lynda. He is survived by her and three sons from his first marriage. Asked earlier this year how he would like to be remembered,

he requested that a *corridi-phyllum japonica* be planted on his grave: "It is a lovely honey colour and will last about 60 years and then die. And that's all right," he told an interviewer.

'I still can't get over that excitement when you look over the seedlings you planted out and wonder if they are going to come through — and they do'

Gay Search writes: It was Geoff who first got me involved in gardening on television. Although he came over as straightforward, behind the scenes he was a very complex man. He had an enormously strong sense of humour and it was a pity that none of that came over on

TV; early in his career someone had told him to leave the jokes to Morecombe and Wise. He was the most popular gardening presenter, people related to him as an ordinary bloke and although there were jokes about his Blue-Peterish style he was all about getting pleasure out of gardening. He was an enormous positive force. Just before he died he was working on a new programme, *Geoff Hamilton's Hidden Gardens*, a new series about the spiritual aspects of gardening. That was something he believed in.

Alan Titchmarsh adds: Working in television, and achieving success, can go to people's head, not so with Geoff Hamilton. Yet behind easy presentation and straightforward approach was a great deal of hard graft.

We first met two decades ago, when he was editing *Practical Gardening* and I was a freelance journalist. As an editor he had no side — and a huge fund of knowledge. Our last partnership was in June for *Gardener's World* at the big flower show in Birmingham. It became rather like Morecombe and Wise, we had got to know each other's quirks, and we could swap routines. In the best sense of the word there was an ordinariness about Geoff — and something else he was notable for — dirty knees.

Geoff Hamilton, gardener and journalist, born August 12, 1936; died August 4, 1996

Michael Fenn

On the waterfront

MICHAEL "Mickey" Fenn, who has died of a heart attack aged 58, was a dockworker. He could take you into London's lifeblood, he knew every wharf and hideaway in the upper and lower pool of the Thames, and he could tell its tales — who owned and built it, whether it specialised in tobacco or quinine, timber or asbestos, fruit or spices, meat or motor cars.

And, just for good measure, he could sketch in its secret history — who worked and was injured there, what the employers did to them in the good-old, bad-old days before the registration of dock labour and how, with wit, humour and a growing fearlessness, the men got even.

Fenn was born and raised in Stepney at the vivacious heart of London's dockland community. Apart from evacuation during the second world war, a spell of national service in the Army, and a round-the-world trip after he was vindictively sacked from the docks in 1965, he lived his life in the East End. He regarded his locale with an intensity of feeling second only to the love which he reserved for his family.

It was this detailed knowledge that raised the suspicions of Fenn and his circle of friends in 1972. It was then that the vast meat and shipping Vestey family conglomerate was sacking registered dockers on the waterfront. Meanwhile, an apparently unconnected facility, Midland Cold Storage, three miles inland, was employing cheaper labour to do what had been dock work.

The dockers picketed Midland, described by Prime Minister Edward Heath as "a pathetic little firm". Just how reliable the dockers' instincts were was soon established. Midland, it transpired, was owned by the Vestey family through nominee shareholders. The Vesteyes said that the failure to make the link had been "a clerical error".

For the crime of secondary picketing the Midland Cold Storage Five of Fenn's workmates — the Pentonville Five — were locked away. At this, the National Association of Stevedores and Dockers, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Ports Shop Stewards Commit-

tee, embarked on a battle royal to publicise the men's fate and obtain their release. Fenn coined an eloquent, blunt and direct slogan: "Five trade unionists are inside — why aren't you out?"

Michael Fenn's sense of solidarity began with a patriotism of locale, but it knew no boundaries. He loved to travel to France, Germany, and Holland to meet fellow dockers and took pride in what they had achieved, with facilities as he remarked, which often provided a shining contrast to those back at home. His internationalism and socialist humanism was expressed in opposition, first to Oswald Mosley and, later, to the National Front.

In 1968, when some elements in the London docks struck in support of Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech, Fenn was one of the few people within the docks who, without hesitation, expressed his opposition. A Communist Party member for some years, he later became active in the International Socialists/Socialist Workers' Party, until he left over a matter of principle.

In all the years of victimisation and defeat after 1978, even after he lost his own job, Fenn, elegantly dressed and with shining shoes, retained the belief that human beings could change the world if only they stuck together. He lived his life fearlessly, with wit, imagination, love and a withering contempt for those who put money before morality. There was a special way he spoke and wrote the English language.

He leaves his wife Denise, and five children. A Bruce Springsteen song echoes Michael's style and captures that crystal spirit which lives on in his family.

Wherever there's somebody fighting for a place to stand. A decent job or a helping hand. Wherever somebody's struggling to be free. Look in their eyes and you'll see me.

Michael (Mickey) Fenn, dockworker and socialist, born January 11, 1938; died July 23, 1996

Wherever there's somebody fighting for a place to stand. A decent job or a helping hand. Wherever somebody's struggling to be free. Look in their eyes and you'll see me.

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Socialist and worker... Mickey Fenn with his wife Denise

Letters

Janet Wright writes: When I met Jessica Mitton (*obituary*, July 23) at Sam on the morning after she had flown in from California, she welcomed me as if there was no one she would rather see than a journalist asking questions she must have heard 100 times. At 70, she was one of the funniest and liveliest people I had ever met. Friendly, open and unembittered; no meanness of spirit. She seemed to take life so lightly it was a shock to realise how much she had lost or given up, and how passionately committed she still was to justice. She was proud of her misadventure in being a student activist. When I asked about her daughter's marriage to a black radical leader — the father of Jessica's grandchildren — she said quite casually in her cut-glass aristocratic voice: "Oh I don't think they ever married. If they did, she didn't mention it."

Simone Crawley writes: The life story of "Mad Mitch" (*obituary*, July 24) demonstrates that it is possible to turn swords into ploughshares, to convert armament factories to agricultural implement workshops. He was a typical Celt. A fearless, reckless exhibitionist in Aden, he organised the underground resistance in Afghanistan and Nicaragua. The Celts are disobedient and disorganised to win battles, they rely on guerrilla tactics to drive out invaders.

Inor Morgan writes: Len Creed (*obituary*, July 24) was famous for recruiting Viv Richards to English cricket. But his experience as a bookmaker was formidable. Once, I asked him: "So what is the system for winning money on the horses?" His reply was engraved over the door of every bookie: "There is no system."

Walter Hassan

The roar of the Jaguar

WALTER Hassan, who has died aged 91, was one of this country's most gifted designers of high-performance engines and a vital link in the Jaguar story.

In 1930, as a 15-year-old fresh from Hackney Technical Institute, he was taken on as a mechanic by Bentley, which had just moved into its first factory by the Welsh Harp reservoir in north-west London. His skills were revealed early

on: in 1925, he prepared a Le Mans 3-litre Bentley for a 24-hour record attempt on the banked Montlhéry circuit south of Paris, where it averaged over 95mph without problems.

WO Bentley described Hassan as "very young, very keen and very ambitious", though that ambition nearly cost him his life when Bentley returned to Montlhéry in 1926 with the single-seater Bentley "Slug" to attempt the first 100mph-plus,

24-hour record. The works drivers, diamond millionaire Woolf "Babe" Barnato and jockey George Duller, had already covered over 1,000 miles at 101mph when Duller skidded on the banking. Shaken, he drove into the pit to allow Barnato to take over; but the "Babe" had gone off to eat, only Hassan was there.

In an attempt to save the record attempt, Hassan leapt into the driving seat and drove off, managing only a third of a lap before the tricky handling of the "Slug" sent the car skidding through the crash barrier. It rolled over, ending astride a ditch with Hassan apparently dead. "It's cooked 'is goose!" a French stander (with a remarkable grasp of English idiom) was reported as saying at the scene. The car was a write-off.

He also created the Barnato-Hassan Bentley racer, whose lap speed of 142.6mph was the second-fastest ever recorded at Brooklands. After Barnato gave up racing in 1936, Hassan briefly worked on the new ERA racing voiturette, then in 1937 joined Taylor & Taylor of Brooklands, to help develop an advanced land-speed record car designed for John Cobb by Reid Ralton.

In September 1938 Hassan was buttonholed in the Brooklands paddock by Bill Heynes, of SS Cars, who needed a chief experimental engineer in Coventry for the company's popular new Jaguar range, then selling at the rate of 5,000 a year. When the second world war halted Jaguar production, Hassan developed aero-engine carburetors at Bristol, but returned to Coventry in 1943 to work on parachute ejection vehicles.

More importantly, while fire-watching he helped Jaguar chief William Lyons, Heynes and Claude Bailey, formulate a new twin, overhead-

and because Hassan was not a designated driver, any record could not have been officially registered anyway.

He recovered after three weeks in a private room in the American Hospital, Paris ("They refused to take a penny piece for their services," remarked a grateful Bentley).

When the Bentley company was taken over by Rolls-Royce in 1931, Hassan joined Barnato, who had funded Bentley since 1926 and maintained a well-equipped garage at Ardenrui. Barnato's country house near Lingfield, there, Hassan developed a special 8-litre Bentley for Brooklands racing, based on a 4-litre chassis frame, which took the identity of the 1929-30 6.5 litre Le Mans winner, "Old No 1". It crashed over the Brooklands banking in 1932, killing the driver, Clive Durrant, and was rebuilt as a road car.

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can engine for the postwar Jaguar range. With the return of peace, SS Cars and Bentley Cars, and Hassan brought in an old Brooklands friend, "Lofty" England, as service engineer. England eventually succeeded Sir William Lyons as Jaguar's chief executive.

The six-cylinder Jaguar twin-can XK engine was unveiled in the sensational 3.4 litre XK120 sports car at the London Motor Show in October 1948. It brought the hitherto exotic feature of twin overhead camshafts within the reach of ordinary motorists and remained in production for four decades.

HASSAN next joined Coventry Climax as chief engineer, and was instrumental in developing the FW ("featherweight") fire-pump engine into one of the most successful competition units of its day. However, when the Formula One capacity was doubled to 3-litres for 1966, Coventry Climax withdrew.

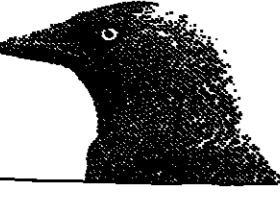
The company had been acquired by Jaguar in 1963 and Hassan was made director in charge of Jaguar power units. He recruited Autocar's technical editor, Harry Mundy, as chief development engineer, and the two jointly developed a top-of-the-range V12 engine for Jaguar, one of the finest luxury car power units of recent years. It was only after the new engine had been launched in 1972 that Hassan, by then an OBE, chose to retire at the age of 67.

David Burgess-Wise
Walter Hassan, engineer, born April 25, 1905; died July 13, 1996



Motorman... Hassan on his 90th birthday with fellow designers and veteran cars

Jackdaw



Soft soap

THIS page is to be devoted to EastEnders, a drama series from the BBC that might be best described for American audiences as a "soap opera" but that it violates three basic qualities of soaps:

1. No one is rich and famous. May, so Wilmoth-Brown was rich, but he eventually got flibbered out of his establishment (the Dagmar) and we haven't seen the likes of him since.
2. The mothers are not all a year younger than their daughters. Quite the contrary. Some of the other women aren't even beautiful!
3. Crisis on par with "Oh, no,

my wife and son are stranded in the Alps after their charter plane crashed as a result of sabotage by my arch-business rival" are not the norm. Rather, we have things like Ethel (one of those older women) offering to do Lofty's laundry for him at the local laundrette, but neglecting to separate the colours from the whites, so that she has to try explaining to him why he's now got pink underwear!

Soap differences found at the Eastenders website www.nyud.edu/~gss/adm1/bestsoc/. Thanks to Alex Clay.

Roll over

A VIVID example of the "new musicology", this is an interdisciplinary study of romantic pianism in relation to gender and sexuality. It underscores the extent to which the piano resonates with intimations of both homosexuality and mortality.

A Cambridge University Press advertisement in London. Review of Books gives the sexual twist on Avin Kopelman's *Beethoven's Kiss: Pianism, Perversion and the Mas-*

try of Desire, published by Stanford University Press. Thanks to Eric Thompson.

Sleepy time

THE label of Nyctol tablets container (Nyctol) is an over-the-counter sleep aid begins: "Nyctol Night-Time Sleep Aid"; continues: "An aid to the relief of temporary sleep disturbance... and ends with a "Warning: May cause drowsiness. If affected do not drive or operate machinery. Stating the obvious. Thanks to Val Secretan from Norway.

Wide love

TO HELP heal the world. Write a Love Letter to Someone, or to Everyone, perhaps an individual or a group of people that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to reach, and we will publish it for you here on the World Wide Web. Each one of us can now offer the very best of ourselves and our lives to the world: our deepest understanding, generosity and kindness, our forgiveness, wisdom, compassion and

support to millions, and perhaps one day soon, billions of people all over the world. Such a single act of unconditional love is very powerful. It opens the way to levels of healing and liberation, individually and collectively, previously unimagined. We are, as the expression goes, "All One People," and we have been all along. So perhaps it's time we stopped pretending otherwise. Why not finally give ourselves to helping each other, openly and freely, without reservations or conditions? Without demanding something in return. Why not go all the way with it? Love only liberates, when it is absolute and unconditional. By offering the very best of ourselves, openly and without psychological defence, we can connect irreversibly to healing not only all of our relationships, but our own hearts. A love letter to the world, or to someone specific in the world, is simply an opportunity to close accounts and open your heart, to completely make peace with this world, with

your friends, with anyone you have perceived as your enemy, with your family, your past, people you've hurt or been hurt by, and so on. Sometimes in cases where it is not possible to even locate the person, or people, to whom you are writing. In other words, it's a very powerful way of committing to forgiveness, love and compassion, of letting go and healing. It is one that holds enormous benefits for the writer, and possibly the recipient, and not insignificantly, great inspiration for many others who may read it. Gather your thoughts together, sit down, and write from the heart. And some examples of the recipients of this unconditional love: the countless people in the world who I may never see face-to-face, but about whom I deeply care; everyone, woman and man, who may think of me until recently I had considered my enemy; black people etc. There is no charge. All donations, as well as sponsorships to help support this effort are tax-deductible, and deeply appreciated.

Speak to the heart in you at <http://www.scruzuel.com/>

Lethal dose

"I SNORTED it up. It was better than great... I played the hardest, fastest I ever played." With meths came a fire he'd never felt. A dozen nights of meth-fed marathon jams improved his drumming in a hurry. The band hit the garage circuit outside



Details... hard and fast

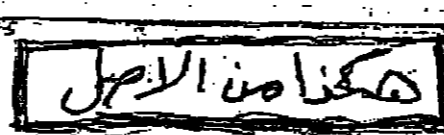
San Francisco, and 16-year-old Devon had a new friend. "I had tried LSD. After meth, I even smoked crack a couple of times," he says. "They were nowhere near this. I mean who needs that stuff when \$40 of meth keeps you going for two days?" It wasn't just drumming that improved. "Sex on meth," he says, "is real to another level." Meth can trigger extreme sexual performance in both sexes. One woman who'd never had an orgasm such the "glass click" — a meth pipe — and climaxed with her man 10 times that night. Another guy in Devon's orbit tried a new partying mode, the one man orgy. He rented a stack of porn films, smoked meth, and started masturbating. He lasted an hour. Then two, three, four hours — loving every minute as — until he unleashed a wad that practically knocked him off his feet. Only then did he look down and see blood. He had rubbed the skin off his penis. Next stop: skin grafts. Devon didn't bleed for meth. A skinny stoner who'd never had a steady girl, he sud-

denly became a stud. He could last for hours, easily satisfying two women in a single night. "The sex is incredible, if you have the time." It was as if God had had a half-baked idea of what sex could be, then meth came along and to perfection. It was Picasso sex, big eyes and body parts blowing apart in a fierce climax. You don't know whether you're coming or nova. This new talent bugged Devon a little — he felt almost robotic in bed but his partners weren't complaining and he quickly stopped worrying.

Kevin Cook reports in Details on the effects of meth, a drug hailed as the new crack in America, just as lethal, better effects. Described by specialists as the drug that comes close to giving you the maximum pleasure your brain can give.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4866; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield



Holding the Short straw

Global equality will drive next phase of industrial revolution



Larry Elliott

FOR once, the spin doctors are right. Clare Short and Michael Meacher have the best two jobs on Labour's front bench. Ms Short and Mr Meacher probably don't see it this way, and it says much for the introverted, short-termist focus of modern Britain that Overseas Development and Environmental Protection are seen as places to which you send troublesome colleagues to ensure they don't upset the unions or the commuters on Network South-east.

Yet, as the millennium approaches, it is obvious that the two great and unavoidable economic challenges of the 21st century will be sustaining the global environment and alleviating global poverty.

The common assumption is that these challenges will be spawned by a world economy that continues to underperform. But this view is based on the experience of the past not the future, when the global economy is at last set to change for the better.

Forget the little nudges to

base rates or the trimming of tax rates — themselves examples of the short-term fixation of Westminster life. The fluctuations of the business cycle are about to be subsumed into an upswing that may last for a generation.

Looking back across the 200-odd years of modern capitalism, each phase of industrialisation was driven by one dominant technology — steam power, the railways, electricity, the internal combustion engine. Although the pattern has not been uniform, the world economy has tended to advance through long cycles of around 50-60 years, with one technology becoming exhausted and replaced.

But the new paradigm does not arrive overnight. There is often a period when the old technology is on its way out but the new has yet to fulfil its potential. The first motor cars, for example, were produced at the end of the 19th century, but to get the most from the technology there was a need for roads, the Fordist method of production and the drift to the suburbs.

It is clear that information technology will be the driving force behind the next wave, and over the next 20 years the full benefits of the computer age will become apparent. The boom dominated by the information generation will be bolstered by two other changes: the geographic revolution that will bring the huge markets of the former communist world into the global economy and the entry



of women into the workforce in ever-increasing numbers.

In the past, some of the boom phases of the long cycle lasted longer than others, and one key factor behind the longevity of the upswing is the policy stance. The strength and duration of the post-war boom, for example, was helped by expansionist macro-economic policies, the far-sightedness of the Marshall aid programme and a political culture in which narrowing the gap between rich and poor was seen as important.

To make sure the next long cycle lasts as long as the Golden Age, the West will need to rediscover that policy formula. Central banks and finance ministries must recognise that inflation is no longer the enemy it once was, the International Monetary Fund should show to Russia the generosity the Americans once accorded to western Europe and, above all, resources should be shifted from rich to poor and from north to south.

The need for redistribution

should not be underestimated. A recent paper by the ISES economist Danny Quah, for the Economic Journal, shows that the global economy is polarising into rich and poor countries. Contrary to traditional analyses, there is no guarantee that the poor countries will gradually converge with rich ones.

EVIDENCE of this trend also emerged from the recent United Nations human development report, which found that the total wealth of the world's 358 billionaires exceeds the combined annual incomes of 45 per cent of the world's people.

The get-out clause for these plutocrats — that trickle-down economics will help the rich as well as the poor — is looking a bit thin. In the mid-1980s, the poorest 20 per cent of the world's people took 2.3 per cent of global income; today that figure is 1.4 per cent.

Without direct and prompt

action, this trend is likely to accelerate. Those who point to the success of the "tiger" economies of East Asia as examples of nations that have pulled themselves up by their bootstraps conveniently forget that the policies which underpinned rapid development — interventionist industrial policies and protectionism — are outlawed by the new economic orthodoxy.

Moreover, the sheer cost of the physical infrastructure necessary for the computer age — terminals, software, fibre-optic networks and so on — is likely to widen the gap between rich and poor.

The UN recognises that the problem has to be addressed. Richard Jolly, principal author of the human development report noted: "Policy-makers are often mesmerised by the quantity of growth. They need to be more concerned with its quality and to take timely action to prevent growth that is lopsided and flawed."

The UN cited five damaging

forms of growth — that which does not translate into jobs, that which is not matched by the spread of democracy, that which snuffs out separate cultural identities, that which despoils the environment and growth where most of the benefits are seized by the rich.

This last is what the UN calls ruthless growth. It is what leads to street kids being exterminated like vermin in Latin America and children going without proper education or medical care in sub-Saharan Africa. If it continues unopposed, the famines, the civil wars, the waves of migration and the environmental degradation of the past two decades will be as nothing to what will occur in the first 20 years of the 21st century.

So what should be done? The most basic reform is to provide decent education to every child. In 1960, South Korea and Pakistan had the same per-capita incomes, but Pakistan had primary school enrolment of 30 per cent,

South Korea 94 per cent. Today, South Korea's GDP per head is three times that of Pakistan.

Although such a programme would require serious amounts of cash, there are two obvious sources. The first would be a tax on pollution in the West, beginning with a car-borne tax to cut down on greenhouse gases. The second would be to press ahead with the idea, floated by James Tobin, of a transactions tax on foreign exchange speculation.

BOTH ideas have struggled to make headway, not least because the rich and powerful — who would be the big losers — have mounted a vigorous defence of their privileged position. But, as Professor Tobin noted in the foreword to a recent book (The Tobin Tax, OUP), most of the opposition is groundless. If the financial sector is so cost-conscious that a 0.25 per cent transactions

tax would cause it to up sticks and head for the Cayman Islands, one may ask why it has not done so already.

On any objective basis, the developing world could make better use of 0.25 per cent of the \$1 trillion a day-plus passing through the foreign exchanges than do western financial institutions. Providing some form of global fiscal mechanism would also put democratic fetters on freebooting international capitalism.

Ultimately, the rich West has a choice. It can make some modest sacrifices that would allow the developing world to take a fair share of rising global prosperity. Or it can insist, as Neville Chamberlain once said of Czechoslovakia, that the developing world is a faraway place of which we know nothing. In that case, it must face the near-certainty that global poverty, insecurity and ecological disaster will truncate the upswing for which we have waited so long.

Party members unite — you have nothing to lose but their words

Debate

Mark Seddon

WELCOME to the hall mirrors. Reacting to a little summer ferment from the unusually quiet Labour left, a party spokesman suggested that an unholy alliance had been got up by the left and the Tories to undermine Tony Blair. The claim defies comprehension, but the Tories are plenty more. One of the most successful operations conducted by the right over the past decade has been the capture of the political lexicon.

Perhaps you imagined that your support for progressive causes put you on the radical left. You are mistaken! The word "radical" has long since been appropriated by the right, who have also assumed the "reformers" mantle.

In the United States, liberals are derided by conservatives, who regard liberals as conservative and themselves as radical. In Britain those brave enough to still admit to being democratic socialists suffer a double whammy, for they suffer the calumnies heaped upon them by erstwhile soulmates describing themselves as "modernisers".

In Labour's hall of mirrors, socialists who want to transform society become "traditionalists", "conservatives" or plain "old Labour", while

those modernisers who do not believe that Thatcherism promulgated a unique regression, but something to be improved upon, are described as being "real" and "radical".

Can it really have been only five years ago that the then leader of the Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, wrote this: "The public utilities are by their nature monopolies. They are also monopolies on which the rest of the economy depends. It is essential that they remain in public ownership — nationalised, in the original sense of the word, as single units, owned by the nation through elected government and capable of management in a way that meets the national and community needs for efficiency, responsiveness to consumers, satisfactory working conditions and coherent planning..."

Only a few short years ago divide this from Kim Howells's recent exhortation in the New Statesman: "Brothers and sisters — embrace competition!" In the latest issue, Howells claims equal influence from Karl Marx and Adam Smith. Which is new? Who is radical and who is blue?

The beneficiary of the capture of the lexicon and the political and economic ground that comes with it is the old, reactionary right. It may be that there will shortly be a Labour government, but the Thatcherite cancer has gone deep. Whole areas of debate

are now taboo. Never mind soft issues such as the legalisation of cannabis, it has become well nigh impossible to argue for increased taxation of the better off to fund better services for the poor. Instead there is a partial consensus on public spending, taxation, deregulation and control of the trade unions. New Labour fights on ground identified with the right, which pushes the right even further right.

Compulsory arbitration is floated for striking tube drivers, so the Tories take one step further — forbid strikes in the public sector and fine trade unions for engaging in them even if they are balloted so to do. Labour begins to question the affordability of the welfare state, and the Tories respond by threatening its privatisation.

Mrs Thatcher may have imagined that she had slain the serpent. Certainly she had a good try. But in recent weeks there has been a flurry of industrial action, often taking the form of a one-day strike. This has been described as a "new tactic", the

action is advanced by "militant", "greedy" or "intransigent" trade unionists.

Ageing foot soldiers from Thatcherite think tanks propose reconstituting legislation that would take industrial relations back to 1901 and the Taff Vale judgment, which allowed unions to be sued for damages by employers. It is of no matter that one-day strikes have replaced longer stoppages. It is of little interest that the strike weapon is only ever used in the last resort and by workers who have voted to take it.

Such strikes bear no comparison to the unofficial industrial action waged by the City of London against British industry. And has there been any demand for the pocket-stuffing bosses of the privatised utilities to submit their claims on monopoly profits to arbitration?

The left will eventually have to struggle free from the linguistic straitjacket it finds itself in, if it is to rediscover its sense of purpose.

Mark Seddon is editor of Tribune

Indicators

TODAY — US: Leading indicators (Jun).
UK: Industrial production (Jun).
UK M0 (prov) (Jun).
UK house starts (Jun).
TOMORROW — US: Cyclical indicators (prov) (Jul).
W GEP: Unemployment rate (Jul).

WEDNESDAY — US: Fed Beige book.
UK: Bank of England inflation (Jul).
FRIDAY — US: Producer prices (Jul).
UK: CBI Survey of Distributive Trades (Jul).
Source: Union Discount

Boycott brigade targets Indonesia

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

SOMETHING about the Netherlands and its spin-off entities seems to enrage a certain type of Brit. Centuries ago it was the Dutch proper who excited the rancors. More recently it was the Boer cousins upon whom the wrath of the boycotting classes descended. Now the former Dutch East Indies are squarely in the frame.

Indonesia is shaping up nicely as the South Africa of the 1990s; for the true nostalgic, there is even the British insistence (*à la* Douglas-Home in 1970) that weapons sold to the regime are for external defence, not internal repression.

The vastness, the remoteness, the multiple ethnic problems all add up to a glorious re-employment opportunity for the "Barclays shadow board", the embassy pickets and all those who used to stand outside supermarkets handing out lists of tainted products.

Pop stars and entertainers will cancel gigs in Bali; the Canadians will demand the Commonwealth toughen up sanctions; dissident politicians of whom you'd never previously heard will be declared equal citizens. Yes, quite like old times.

Watch out for those countries with exports similar to the Indonesians — they will be the loudest members of the sanctions chorus, as the Canadians and the Americans last time. This time, the chaps in Canberra, eying the unfriendly giant to the north, are likely to be leading those urging "constructive engagement".

Of course, the boycott-Indonesia industry will be an exercise in displacement or transference or whatever is the trendy term. Just as all the Penguin Specials in the world couldn't alter the fact that it was not South Africa that was threatening to kill 100 million Europeans with multiple-warheads, so all the women-for-peace and hands-off-East-Timor campaigners laid end to end won't make Indonesia the Far East's most clear-armed, unstable mass-execution-loving superpower about to absorb Hong Kong into its distinctly un-maternal bulk.

So Jakarta can shrug off the looming assault by the boycotting classes? Not exactly. The boycotters' record may suggest muddle-headedness, sanctimony, even hypocrisy. But they have a killer instinct for the type of regime likely to feel the squeeze and, more importantly, to be forced to give ground. The rest of us can sit back and enjoy another Dutch treat.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.94	France 7.512	Italy 2.307	Singapore 2.14
Austria 15.61	Germany 2.22	Malta 0.5370	South Africa 6.75
Belgium 45.65	Greece 367.00	Netherlands 2.4625	Spain 188.00
Canada 2.075	Hong Kong 11.67	New Zealand 2.204	Sweden 10.04
Cyprus 0.6975	India 55.27	Norway 9.62	Switzerland 1.795
Denmark 8.82	Ireland 0.9340	Portugal 229.50	Turkey 124.759
Finland 6.895	Israel 4.89	Saudi Arabia 5.77	US 1.6125

Supplied by Halifax Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel) as at close of business on Friday

Voter psychology colours the cost of borrowing

Briefing

Richard Thomas

AS THE ticking of the election clock gets louder, the pressure on the Chancellors of the Exchequer to deliver some feel-good factor is growing. With room for tax cuts narrowing, monetary policy is becoming a likely device.

It is unstrange that the Bank of England — which on Wednesday is likely to deliver another threat against the thur cuts — examines the purely economic effects of changes in base rates in its quarterly bulletin today.

Forget shoppers and swing voters: the Bank has modelled the effect of monetary policy shifts on different industrial sectors, using data from 1970 to 1984. The article uses a 1.1 percentage point rise in official rates as the starting point, and it is reasonable to assume the equivalent rate cut would have mirror-image effects.

The scale of the response varies markedly across sectors. In construction, the decline in output hits 2.1 per cent — against a 1.5 per cent drop in production industries and 1 per cent contraction in services sector output.

There are three factors which the authors Joe Ganley and Chris Salmon say could



explain the divergence. The first is links to the housing market. Construction reacts quickly and strongly to dearer money, because owner-occupiers do. In the

production sector, companies making building materials react similarly.

A second variable shaping the impact of rate changes is the public sector. In the ser-

vice sector, the Bank finds that "other services", including health, social services and education — are a brake on output changes. If anything, activity in state-owned bits of the economy could increase as private firms tighten belts.

The third explanation for different sensitivities is the size of firms. The Bank has compared reaction to base rate changes with the average firm output and "concentration ratio" (the percentage of total output accounted for by the five largest firms). A strong correlation emerges.

Within manufacturing — the only area with good enough data to generate robust conclusions — marked differences emerge even be-

tween sub-sectors with similar markets. Textile companies have the third lowest response, at minus 1.3 per cent, while leather firms — on average half the size of textile ones — reacted with a decline of minus 2.4 per cent.

The Bank's thesis is that while large firms can raise funds from internal sources or capital markets, minnows are reliant on direct bank finance — which reflects movements in official rates.

Here, of course, politics rears its ugly head again. Because few politicians are foolish enough to ignore the small business lobby's muscle, the Bank's report gives the Chancellor another reason to cut rates with abandon.

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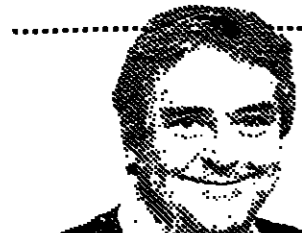
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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

'Every heroic image was capped by something seedy, cynical and much nearer the bone of real, unpleasant life'



Frank Keating

TO US in the vast congregation of hangers-on who piled out of the caravans three weeks ago, the true heroine of the 1996 Games was not a twentysomething gymnast, a runner, a jumper, a standing-still long-legged length of pulchritude

frozen in concentration as she prepared to defy gravity in the women's long jump... To us lot in the invading army which has marched across Georgia, cursing, the heroine was Mrs Dick Pound — wife of Canada's IOC bigwig — who kneed an Atlanta policewoman in the groin last Wednesday. It goes without saying that the cop was over-officious and over-harassed and over-the-top. Every one of them has been, male or female. They have not been able to cope. Security was one thing, the traffic horrendously gridlocked another. The army of foreign athletes and media mayhem was another altogether. They hated us, and it

was mutual. They could not stand the world invading their narrow space, seethingly criticising the little town of which they had been so proud. But then there was Johnson and Redgrave, and Bailey and Lewis and Morcell and Suleymanoglu, and Pinsent and, I suppose, Black and young Anstie, and, to be sure, many more of similar and valorous resplendence. But you could never get away from the day-to-day Atlanta. Why should you hear now of journalists' gripes? We should count ourselves lucky being here, the epicentre of a fortnight's sport and sportsmanship, of endeavour and competition and athleticism. But that could seldom allow

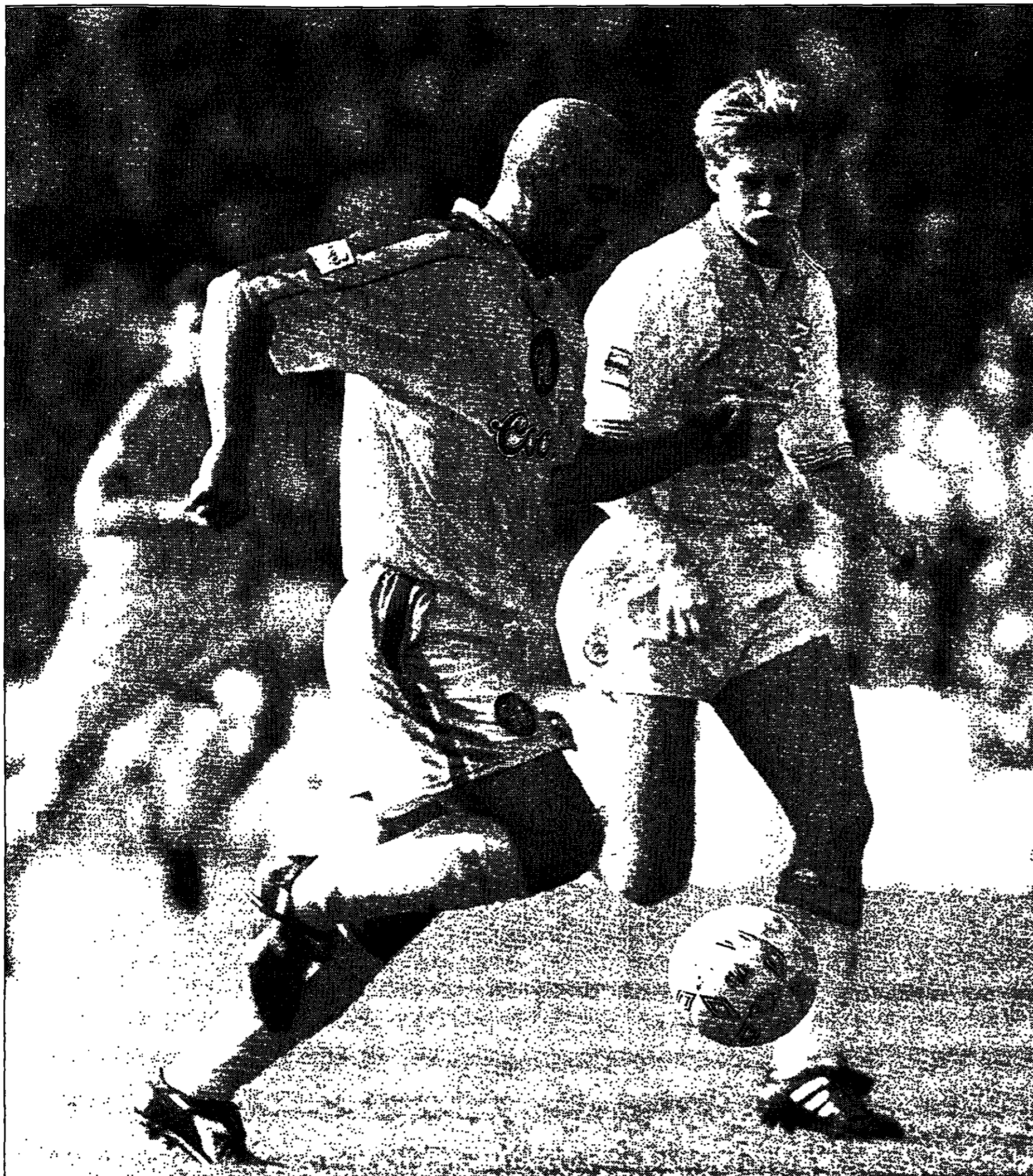
itself to break through. At every heroic image, there were just a couple of minutes to savour it before it was capped by something seedy and cynical and much nearer the bone and the knuckle of real and unpleasant life. Mrs Pound's feat was to do what we had all been daring ourselves to do. It had begun at the very beginning, this good plov at once being topped by something crass and unbecoming and geared to commerce. Take the opening ceremony. It was a stroke of genius to ambush the world with the surprise appearance of the Olympian and nonpareil Muhammad Ali to light the flame of goodness and expectation.

Up travelled the sacred lick of flame by pulley to ignite the Olympic bowl on the topmost plinth. Hurray — till we saw that the bowl was cast in the open-shell shape of a gigantic chip-wraper for McDonald's french fries. The hamburger conglomerate was cashing in, I suppose, till these Games were inexplicably given the nod six years ago, the two sentences most closely associated by the rest of the world with this tin-pot jumble of derelict used-car lots cowering below a score of skyscrapers was "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn..." and "I have a dream..." The first from the 1939 Hollywood Civil War epic Gone With The Wind and the second, of course, that boom-

ingly resonant panegyric to slavery and segregation by Martin Luther King. Well, a decade ago the Atlanta businessman Billy Payne, who looks and talks like a cross between the former Texas billionaire Bunker Hunt and the Dallas soap opera anti-hero J R Ewing, had a dream all right. Senor Samaranch and his IOC cronies fell for it. And now, the dream fulfilled, the rest of the world decamps back to civilisation this morning with the majority saying, "Atlanta? Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." Payne and Atlanta's mayor Bill Campbell remained impervious — "you whining critics should be taken up to the

sneet range," said the latter, forgetting the order that the Georgia penal authorities had postponed all prison executions for the duration of the Games. But only till today. A French photographer mate had two days in the slammer and a five-grand fine for arguing with a cop at the football stadium. I escaped lightly, only two hours of heavy and scary menace in the nick for hailing a downtown taxi where apparently I shouldn't have been hailing one. The police throughout the Games were quite beastly to the heroic, gauntlet-running taxi-drivers, who were trying to make a crust for themselves not for conglomerate commerce.

Just before I was arrested, a friend had driven me in on the airport road. You could see the jagged skyscrapers, like bad teeth in the mouth of a crone, in the smog-hazed distance. "Ah me," I remarked with a sigh, "the dreaming spires." "What sport are you down to cover tonight?" asked my pal, jumping to the blessed reverie of the theme, "a spot of cricket in the Parks, what?" No, this was a benighted corner of a foreign field all right. And on impulse, together we recited, "Now stands the SWATCH clock at ten-to-three. And are there junk-burgers still for tea?" There were. Exorbitant as usual. Inedible as usual.



Taking it in his stride... Vialli, a member of Juventus's European Cup winning side in May, again came out on top against Ajax yesterday

Chelsea in surreal win with the off-colour Vialli

Michael Walker

BLUE was not the colour, but for once that major detail was of minor importance to Chelsea fans yesterday. At the start of the second half, when Gianluca Vialli finally ran out in a Chelsea shirt, it was yellow in hue. To the thousands of Chelsea fans at the City Ground, however, the Italian could have come out in the nude and still produced the collective moan of pleasure they exhaled. For the record, his first touch for Chelsea was an assured short pass to Dan Petrescu. The sight of Vialli was the high point of a glorious if slightly surreal day for Chelsea followers. Pre-season football usually has an artificial feel to it, with teams and tackles often understrength, but after 16 minutes of the Umbro Tournament final the London club found themselves two up against Ajax. Now Chelsea, of course, are in the midst of a remarkable transition, but even bearing that in mind such a scoreline takes a bit of getting used to. The fact that they then maintained it for the remaining 74 minutes was all the more creditable. Ajax were missing six significant individuals from their European Cup final defeat against Vialli's Juventus in May but, as footballing wisdom has it, all you can do is beat the opposition. Ruud Gullit's side did so, and the new manager was a happy man. "I think we performed very well. We did well tactically, it's just the beginning." The manager is not so one-eyed as to miss deficiencies, however, and he pointed out that Ajax had missed a few serious chances. Kiki Musampa, whose goal had seen off Manchester United on Saturday while Chelsea put out Nottingham Forest on penalties, was now the principal culprit and he could quite plausibly have had a first-half hat-trick. He missed a sitter from six yards just before Chelsea scored, another effort well blocked by Kharine and then dragged a third shot narrowly wide. Had he taken the first, said the Ajax coach, Louis van Gaal, Chelsea would have found it more difficult. "They scored from both of their first two chances and after that it

was always going to be hard." As it was, Chelsea held their lead comfortably, especially in the first half. The opener was created by Gullit's other Italian buy Di Matteo, who ran things for a while although he was prone to the odd slapdash pass. The one that picked out Wise in the box did not fit into that category, though; Wise brought it down and poked the ball past Van der Sar. Di Matteo also supplied the second when his clever control and swift incisive pass picked out the invading Petrescu. It was a typical Chelsea wing-back surge and Petrescu sent it first time beyond the goalkeeper. Ajax had the better of the second half, although Vialli had two chances comfortably saved. Even with his first silverware on the table, Gullit, who will play his first game of the season in Thursday's friendly at Sampdoria, said he and his players would be keeping their feet on the ground. "While these victories are nice, they do not mean anything because it's only pre-season," he said. "I'm not now thinking about buying any more players. My first job is to ask the players to perform the way I want them to, and if they continue as they have done then I will be happy. Of course if they don't do the things I want then I will look again. But at the moment I'm happy." Earlier Manchester United had seen off Forest in a toothless encounter for the third and fourth places. It took United 83 minutes before they found a bite and it was David Beckham, "our best player pre-season", according to Alex Ferguson, who finally roused United with a sweet, swerving right-foot drive from 20 yards. Three minutes later Brian McClair side-footed past Mark Crossley after Colin Cooper's deflected clearance fell into the Scot's path. In the final minute United made it three when Philip Neville ran on to an instinctive flick from Paul Scholes and calmly lobbed Crossley. That was enough to beat Forest, who had taken an early lead through Kevin Campbell. He was later denied a second by the referee, a decision the manager Frank Clark later called "scandalous". Welcome to the new season.

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"HOG THE FAST LANE."

مكتبة الجليل

Duffield times it to the Second

Chris Hawkins

GEOFFREY Duffield took several leaves off of Lester Pigott's book when riding a perfect waiting race on Last Second in Saturday's Nassau Stakes at Goodwood. It was a memorable performance and Duffield, in the final furlong of a career spanning 30 years, can seldom have shown better judgment or exhibited such finesse.

Last Second is, according to her trainer, Sir Mark Prescott, "a frill little thing with plenty of looking after" and Duffield certainly did that, wrapping her up and tucking her away until the last 150 yards. When eased out she quickened brilliantly to win by two lengths and, despite her delicacy, should hardly have known she had been to the races. Last Second will not run for while, however, and has the Sun Charlot Stakes on the Champion Stakes as her autumn objective.

Duffield, 49, came from a Yorkshire mining family and describes himself, in his early days, as an aggressive but tempered little lad and that's why I made it as a jockey. As a 15 year-old, standing 4ft 8ins and weighing less than 6st, he declined a life in the stalling pits taking himself off to Newmarket for fresh air and 19 shillings a week to sign on as an apprentice with Jack Waugh. He firmly believes that combative attitude stood him in good stead in the hard school of a racing stable. "I regard myself as an aggressive rider at my best on a horse that wants taking hold of," said Duffield. "But I can do the kid-glove stuff if it's required."

ders and Dettoris may have a length or so on him, but he could be short-changing himself for luck and opportunities are major factors in success on the Turf. On paper the 30-runner Stewards' Cup looked the usual lottery, but several experts and plenty of puntersatched on to Coastal Bluff, who started 10-1 joint favourite and never gave his supporters a moment's anxiety. As soon as Jimmy Fortune asked him two furlongs out he quickened so decisively that the contest was over in half a dozen strides and Coastal Bluff roared home three lengths clear of Double Thrive to give David Barron, the Thirsk trainer, a second win in the race in three years. Barron had been worried that the ground might be a shade too firm and was in two minds about running him until spurred on by his assistant Val Groves who accused him of being scared and "putting the horse on a pedestal". Coastal Bluff, whose sire Standan won the race just as easily in 1979, will now probably go for the Ayr Gold Cup next month and it will take some drastic measures from the handicapper to stop him doing the double last achieved by Lochsong. Stories about the prowess of The West on the home gallops ensured that Paul Cole's newowner started odds-on for his debut in the Richard Baxton Stakes, and judging by the way he won there is little doubt we shall be hearing plenty more of him. Bookmakers gave this big, strong colt a 25-1 quote for the 3,000 Guineas, while going 20-1 about his stable-companion Putra, thought at this stage to be inferior. Another colt to make an impression on the Guineas market was Bahareh who is now



Home alone... there's only one horse in at as Coastal Bluff sprints clear of 29 rivals to win the Stewards' Cup

12-1 second best behind the 7-1 favourite Zamindar, after a six lengths stroll at Newmarket. Bahareh, a half-brother to last year's starlet Bolari, ran home as straight as a gun, barrel in the centre of the course and, while probably beating little, looked a pretty high class animal. In Munich yesterday Branson Abby equalled the post-war mare's record of Laurel Queen by winning the 22nd race of her career and David Abell, her owner, was also on target in the feature race at Chester with Sea Victor. In front of a crowd of over 30,000 for Chester's second

Sunday meeting, Sea Victor showed he was none the worse for his epic tussle with Southern Power at Goodwood last year in the week when battling home from Danjing and Embryonic. "What a wonderful day and a wonderful double," exclaimed Abell. "I bought Sea Victor for 12,000 guineas out of John Gosden's yard at the July Sales last year and it's a tribute to Jimmy Harris that he has done so well. He will go for the Casarwath." Officials at Newcastle were satisfied with the attendance of around 6,000 for their first Sunday meeting yesterday,

even though the quality on offer at Gosforth Park and the other Sunday card at Lingfield left plenty to be desired. But some big names were on show for the Group One feature race at Munich, where Timarida beat the home-trained German, Paul Cole's Montjoy was fourth.

Ripon card with guide to the latest form

3.00 Ripon (1st)	4.00 Tiber
3.30 Ripon (2nd)	4.30 Monte Carlo
3.30 Ripon (3rd)	5.00 Forest Roble

Drum Good, W. Dore, M. Hildesheim.

Draw: Low numbers best 2 & 8, high numbers over 10 & 14 & 16.

Form: In brackets after horse's name are the number of races won and the number of runners.

4.00 AMSTERDAM NATIONAL CHALLENGE CUP RATED STAKES (1st) 2,000	4.00 Tiber
4.00 AMSTERDAM NATIONAL CHALLENGE CUP RATED STAKES (2nd) 2,000	4.30 Monte Carlo
4.00 AMSTERDAM NATIONAL CHALLENGE CUP RATED STAKES (3rd) 2,000	5.00 Forest Roble

Brighton tonight

5.55 Delight Of Dawn	7.55 Nelly's Conson
6.25 Alamyah	7.55 Pearl Dawn
6.55 General Glow	8.25 Princess Penelope

Carlisle tonight

6.10 PRIZESIGHT (new)	7.40 Contralto
6.40 Clasher Club	8.10 Swale
7.10 Moorcraft	8.40 Oakley

Newton Abbot (N.H.) runners and riders

3.15 Indrover	3.45 Verde Lame
3.45 Springfield Dancer	4.15 Kilmargaret Boy
3.15 Southern Gale	4.45 Flying Zed

4.30 NEW YORK HANDICAP

4.30 NEW YORK HANDICAP (1st) 2,000	4.30 Tiber
4.30 NEW YORK HANDICAP (2nd) 2,000	4.30 Monte Carlo
4.30 NEW YORK HANDICAP (3rd) 2,000	5.00 Forest Roble

7.55 DOWNSIDE STAKES

7.55 DOWNSIDE STAKES (1st) 2,000	7.55 Nelly's Conson
7.55 DOWNSIDE STAKES (2nd) 2,000	7.55 Pearl Dawn
7.55 DOWNSIDE STAKES (3rd) 2,000	8.25 Princess Penelope

7.10 SCARLETT COMMERCIALS

7.10 SCARLETT COMMERCIALS (1st) 2,000	7.40 Contralto
7.10 SCARLETT COMMERCIALS (2nd) 2,000	8.10 Swale
7.10 SCARLETT COMMERCIALS (3rd) 2,000	8.40 Oakley

4.15 HOLSWORTHY HURDLE

4.15 HOLSWORTHY HURDLE (1st) 2,000	4.30 Tiber
4.15 HOLSWORTHY HURDLE (2nd) 2,000	4.30 Monte Carlo
4.15 HOLSWORTHY HURDLE (3rd) 2,000	5.00 Forest Roble

4.45 NORTH HAVEN HURDLE

4.45 NORTH HAVEN HURDLE (1st) 2,000	4.30 Tiber
4.45 NORTH HAVEN HURDLE (2nd) 2,000	4.30 Monte Carlo
4.45 NORTH HAVEN HURDLE (3rd) 2,000	5.00 Forest Roble

8.25 SOUTH OVAL HURDLE

8.25 SOUTH OVAL HURDLE (1st) 2,000	7.55 Nelly's Conson
8.25 SOUTH OVAL HURDLE (2nd) 2,000	7.55 Pearl Dawn
8.25 SOUTH OVAL HURDLE (3rd) 2,000	8.25 Princess Penelope

8.40 SCARLETT COMMERCIALS

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Football
Vialli adds gloss for Chelsea
12

Olympics
First gold for a black South African
15

The Guardian Sport



Relaying the good news... Britain's 4 x 400 metres relay team — from left Jamie Baulch, Iwan Thomas, Mark Richardson and Roger Black — celebrate their silver medal at the Olympic Stadium

PHOTOGRAPH: DOUG MILLS

America plunges into the depths of its inner self

The Games

Richard Williams

TEARS. Tears everywhere. Tears of rage, tears of joy, rivers of tears, A Games full of tears. These were the Crying Games.

Tears from winners like Michael Johnson, trickling in a thick rope down one cheek as the Star-Spangled Banner played and Old Glory climbed the stadium flagpole after his 100 metres victory. Winners like the heavyweight wrestler Kurt Angle, his face crumpling as he fingered his gold medal, thinking of his mom and a murdered team-mate.

Tears from losers like Ato Boldon, weeping with frustration at the disruption caused by Linford Christie's second false start, or like Mike Powell as he lay crumpled in the long jump pit, the muscles to the left side of his groin on fire.

Tears from butterflies like

the teenage gymnast Dominique Dawes, unable to reconcile failure in the individual event with the ecstasy of a team gold two nights earlier, and from bruisers like the middleweight Roshii Wells, another in the line of US boxers dismantled by Cuban experts.

Tears from the famous; tears, too, from the unknown. From the mourners at the funeral of Alice Hawthorne, a 44-year-old black businesswoman killed in Centennial Olympic Park by shrapnel from the Friday night pipe-bomb. From Regina Borden, a citizen of Atlanta who attended the ceremony to reopen the Park four days later, looked around at the throng and told reporters: "We need each other."

The weeping started at the top, with the President of the United States, whose eyes moistened as Muhammad Ali tremblingly lit the Olympic cauldron at the climax of the opening ceremony. Whatever these Games were — and not even the president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio

Samaranch, could bring himself to pretend in his closing speech that they were the best of all time — they could certainly claim new records in emotional incontinence.

This was America. This was not just about winning or losing, but about getting in touch with your inner self as you did so. And then showing that inner self to the world, or at least your fellow Americans, via the cameras of the NBC network, single-minded in its desire to keep its viewers switched on by "feminising" the Games through pursuing the human-interest stories behind the American successes.

By the end, the cameras were expecting tears. Once or twice you could see athletes straining to provide them. Those few who failed to cry seemed to be missing the point of the whole thing.

All of this outpouring was a gargantuan manifestation of America's obsession with reconciliation and closure. "This is going to be a catalyst for the world uniting together," said Jordan Pflizer, 37, of Atlanta, one of 250,000 ordinary folk who reclaimed the park on Wednesday. You couldn't blame him. He was only repeating what Samaranch and Billy Payne were telling him.

If we are somehow convinced that "Olympism" has the power to broker truces between centuries-old enemies, if we are persuaded into an unquestioning admiration of the gift of a few hundred thousand dollars from a Swiss bank account to rebuild a football stadium in Sarajevo, then we can be made to overlook what is really going on, the indulgence of human vanity on a truly Olympian scale.

Atlanta's emotional incontinence was matched only by its commercial incontinence. When they caught sight of the hectic bazaar of pin-traders and T-shirt hawkers surrounding the Centennial Olympic Park, the more staid

members of the IOC threw up their hands in horror. This, said Dick Pound, the Canadian IOC member responsible for marketing the Games, must never happen again. Future bidders will be forced to promise not to allow such unsightly scenes to blight the pristine visage of the Olympics.

What hypocrisy. Things were far more repellent inside the compound, where the IOC's Olympic "partners", to use the ghastly gannet terminology of this business, had set out their stalls. Here was the true Olympic spirit, and the motive behind it all. The real sport at the Games of the 26th Olympiad was not running or jumping or throwing, but shopping. The athletes were there not merely to compete but to pitch on behalf of their sponsors.

It would be naive to pretend that this has not been so for most of the century, certainly since the 1920s, when the American soft-drinks manufacturer Robert C Woodruff and the German shoemaker Adi Dassler separately perceived the potential benefits of associating their products with the world of sport. Coca-Cola and Adidas are still there today.

But it took Billy Payne's people to make the connection so blatantly that we could not avoid it.

Baron de Coubertin's original blueprint for the Games featured a Cultural Olympiad, and Atlanta did its best to comply. An exhibition at the beautiful High Museum of Art brought together 120-odd masterpieces from all over the world, and a Neolithic figurine from Romania, a Georgia O'Keefe flower and a 2,000-year-old sun-mask from Ecuador — to reflect the variousness of human nature.

There was music, much of it illuminating the richness of Southern vernacular culture. Al Green, Bob Dylan and

Jerry Lee Lewis appeared at an old Baptist church converted into a restaurant called the House of Blues, the latest of a new chain of restaurants created by the inventor of the Hard Rock Cafes, who has now found a way of franchising the music of freed slaves.

There it was again, the spirit of these Games. Freedom through victory, or possibly vice versa. Everybody was in on the act. Over the entrance of the L Ron Hubbard Foundation offices on West Peachtree hung a banner: "Dianetics welcomes the world. Free the winner in you!"

Stop carping, Billy Payne told reporters who criticised the dreadful organisation and tawdry ambience of his Games. Just look out there. Look at all these people having a good time.

By night, the streets below Payne's offices turned into a cross between New Orleans at Mardi Gras time and the Munich beer festival. In the beer tent opposite the House of Blues, mooning became a new demonstration sport. At day-break the action moved to the intersection of Peachtree Street and International Boulevard. Touts and buskers jostled with trinket-sellers and a family of Jesus people from Oregon.

Yet in the stadiums the crowds were marvellous. Almost 80,000 turned up for the first morning of the athletics. That night another 80,000 turned up. Patient with the queuing and the portable lavatories, enthusiastic about everything they saw, they kept on coming to a stadium that looked what it was: a temporary facility designed to be retrofitted as a ballpark.

America's willingness to tear down and build afresh is one of its most admirable characteristics. But a great stadium carries within it all those great deeds, all those evanescent emotions. It bears witness to reality. Those tears seep into its stones.

Anne outsails prince

Bob Fisher at Cowes

PRINCE PHILIP was shown up by another of his children yesterday, but for once he could smile about it afterwards.

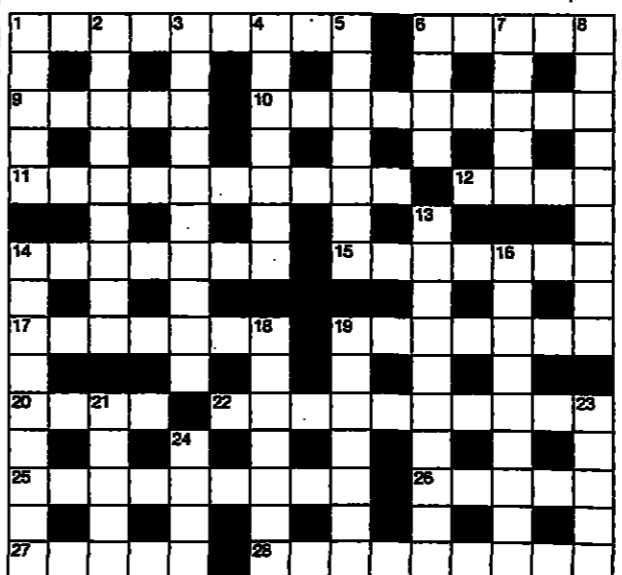
The Prince, with Yeoman XXVIII, finished fourth in the

first race of the Sigma 38 series here yesterday but was beaten by the Princess Royal. Donald and Sally Kennedy's Arbitration, with Princess Anne and her husband Lieutenant Commander Tim Laurence on board, finished second, 45 seconds ahead of David Aisher's pale-green

Yeoman. The competitors in the 654 yachts at Cowes Week enjoyed a magnificent day's racing in 12 to 16 knots of wind and bright sunshine, in marked contrast to Saturday, when the breeze was almost absent and only four classes completed their races.

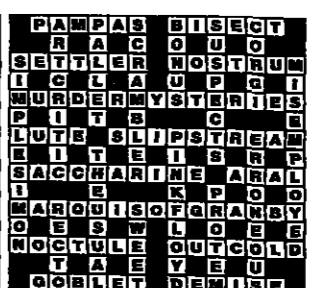
Guardian Crossword No 20,723

Set by Crispa



- Across**
- 1 A police officer will show a number over the horses' accommodation (9)
 - 6 A model's vexed question (5)
 - 8 The person exhibiting a laundry aid (5)
 - 10 Cracking journalist (9)
 - 11 Given aid, created trouble and got out (10)
 - 12 Clobbart to get together (4)
 - 14 Cash organisation in one's later years (7)
 - 15 Transport for duck requiring no stuffing (7)
 - 17 Gun turned on a rebel leader as ordered (7)
 - 19 Made to agree without reservation (7)
 - 20 Dispossess some impecunious tenants (4)
 - 22 Unfortunate drivers at rig (3-7)

- Down**
- 1 About to assess the value of the box (5)
 - 2 Telling Iran grant has been negotiated (5)
 - 3 The board accepts injured miner may be finished (10)
 - 4 Assault responsible for much ill-feeling among lawyers? (7)
 - 5 No longer 10, that's clear (7)
 - 7 A girl will get a hardback (5)
 - 8 Demonstration of scorn for fruit (9)



WINNERS OF PREVIOUS PUZZLES
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Brian Drummond of Carryduff, Belfast, Liam O'Shane of Prestwich, Manchester, Elizabeth Craig of Blyth, Northumberland, Mr F. Harvie of Carlisle Junction, Lanark, and John Curtis of Southville, Bristol.

- 13 A businessman's swindle over agricultural machinery (10)
- 14 Panel showing caution about contact (9)
- 16 Allowance to cut without hesitation (9)
- 18 Treadle replacement being connected (7)
- 19 The examiners are upset and almost cut (7)
- 21 A bit of fish for the table (5)
- 23 Gave everybody a hand (5)
- 24 It's not very exciting but it's home (4)

Solution tomorrow
25 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0991 333 222. Calls cost 30p per min, cheap rate, 40p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATB



Tear jerker... Brooke Shields watches Andre Agassi's final

سكنا من البحر

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